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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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TDHC sues USCIS over denial of CW-1 petitions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Counsel says USCIS adverse decision affected more than 3 quarters of Dynasty employees, ability to continue operations

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino filed yesterday a lawsuit against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security secretary Jeh Johnson, and USCIS director Leon Rodriguez over the denial of its petitions for Commonwealth-only worker permit (CW-1) extension and transfer for its foreign workers.

According to Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, the final USCIS Administrative Appeals Office's adverse agency decision affirming that the company is not engaged in a legitimate business for CW purposes affects more than three quarters of Tinian Dynasty's employees.

HKE counsel George Anthony Long said the company is harmed by the agency decision as it materially affects its ability to maintain and continue its

See TDHC on Page 4

CUC to redistribute anew $1.9M in credit vouchers

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» Eligible residential customers to get $120 credit each

Eligible residential customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will have another round of credit from unused Best Sunshine International, Ltd. utility vouchers.

According to CUC chief financial officer Matt Yaquinto, they are redistributing approximately $1.9 million worth of credits to the same customers who were part of the voucher program.

There are 15,730 accounts that were determined eligible during the first distribution last October 2014.

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WITH 14K LBS OF MAIL DELAYED:

Star Marianas says it's ready to improve mail delivery

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» USPS has 18 months left in contract with United Airlines

With United Airlines said to be responsible for over 14,000 lbs of Saipan-bound mail delayed in Guam, another airline continues its talk with the U.S Postal Services regarding their interest in assisting and improv-

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LIBERATION FESTIV TIES
Paid to the order of Daisy Demapan
$500.00
Five Hundred and Zero Cents Dollars
For Slogan Competition

'OUR ISLANDS, OUR HERITAGE' JON PEREZ

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, third left, presents the ceremonial $500 check to 2016 Liberation Day slogan contest winner Daisy Demapan yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room. Also in photo are Skywalker Communications Group account director Sophia Alvarez, SCG personnel, SMO special assistant Henry Hofschneider, and Saipan Mayor's Office staff.

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ASIA
North Korea on Monday issued its latest belligerent threat, warning of an indiscriminate "pre-emptive nuclear strike of justice."

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FOCUS
Unlike other presidential wives, Nancy Reagan didn't testify before Congress about health care, celebrate controversial Supreme Court decisions or sit in on Cabinet meetings.

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OVERDRIVE
The 2016 Land Rover Range Rover HSE Td6 luxury SUV's 3.0-liter V-6 showcases diesel's strengths: fuel economy and power.

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Local

Economic council supports move to H-visa

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Private sector industry leaders and top government officials of the CNMI Strategic Economic Development Council formally adopted a position yesterday to support a CNMI-wide move to H-visa classified workers for ongoing and future economic projects, citing an increased demand in construction workers and the end of the local contract worker program in 2019.

The move to the H-visa class has been seen as the more cost-prohibitive route compared to the contract worker program businesses have taken advantage of in recent years, but the continuing annual cut to the amount of these contract workers allowed in the NMI and the permitting process delays in recent months have made the H-visa option, which the NMI is exempt from cap, the more responsible option.

Council chair Bob Jones, in statement, explained that their adopted position is to "make clear" to members of the private sector that a move to H-visas "is not just good for their business, but is also good for economy as whole in the long term."

Under the H-visa class, employers would have to pay foreign nationals a prevailing wage.

For construction workers, the prevailing wage is set at $6.43, according to the 2014 CNMI Prevailing Wage and Workforce Assessment Study.

Council members agree that urging businesses, employees, and future investors to pursue the H2-B visa classification "would provide a more stabilized long-term workforce that would help mitigation some of the negative ramifications if Congress does not grant an extension of the CW transition period beyond 2019," the council said.

The council also wants to discuss a policy of "controlled growth" in the NMI and what that would mean, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

This would entail "how many tourists needed" and "hotel rooms needed" in the NMI for the projected economic development and what the government can "do to stay within responsible limits," a senior administration official explained yesterday.

"The shift in focus for the SEDC comes in preparation for the end of the CW transition period…and the rise in economic development throughout the Commonwealth, especially for contract workers," Jones said. "It remains a much larger task to find the proper category for employees to operate all the new tourist industry facilities that are being development currently."

"This is a necessary endeavor toward building a workforce that can sustain our economy beyond 2019," Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said in a statement. "It is the responsible direction for the business community in the CNMI to head toward and I thank the members of the SEDC for taking on this position as leaders of our private sector."

The council's position also comes as the Gov. Ralph DLG Torres administration drafts a letter to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to ask that the immigration officials be "more strict" on the CW approvals, *Saipan Tribune* learned, amid reports that the USCIS has approved permits for contract workers eligible for the H-visa class.

The council's position also comes three months after the Saipan Chamber of Commerce called for the shift to the H-visa class.

The shift would satisfy the provisions of the Consolidated National Resources Act, which mandated the end to the contract worker program in 2019, and would potentially shepherd hundreds—even thousands—of foreign nationals to immediately qualify for CNMI prevailing wages under the H-visa system and lift them above U.S. poverty levels.

Greg Sablan is new Veteran Affairs director

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A longtime CNMI customs official and lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve has been appointed to serve as the new executive officer for the Military Liaison and Veteran Affairs office effective yesterday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog appointed Gregorio "Tam" M. Sablan Jr. to lead the Veterans Affairs Office, a move that follows their acceptance of the courtesy resignation of former director Joseph Palacios in January.

"I am confident that you will devote your time and efforts to represent the interests of our active service members and veterans who devoted their lives defending our country. Lieutenant governor Hocog and I appreciate your acceptance of this appointment to serve in this important capacity," said Torres in his appointment letter.

Sablan

Sablan will be responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the office and will have authority over all military and veteran affairs of the United States Armed Forces in all matters not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States government.

Sablan served at the CNMI Customs for 23 years and leaves the post as the deputy director. He currently serves as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Sablan fills the post held by Palacios for a few months. Palacios was appointed to the post last November by the late governor Eloy S. Inos.

Following the acceptance of his courtesy resignation, Palacios penned a letter to the editor challenging the new Torres administration to be "more sincere of their promises to our CNMI veterans and military personnel from abroad" to support the next executive director with fully funded programs.

Palacios claimed that when he came on board he discovered their monthly operations budget at only around $250, their office computers on loan from other agencies, and without a government-owned vehicle.

Macabalo pleads guilty to perjury

Alexandra Castro Macabalo, a 29-year-old woman accused of enticing a 15-year-old girl to engage in sex for cash with a CNMI government official in 2013, pleaded guilty to perjury yesterday in federal court.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Macabalo's guilty plea and the plea agreement.

Manglona set the sentencing for June 24, 2016 at 9am.

Perjury carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a $250,000 fine, a three-year supervised release, and a $100 special assessment.

Under the plea deal, the sentencing guideline range is 15 to 21 months imprisonment.

The court, however, retains its authority to impose any sentence up to the maximum penalties.

Manglona unsealed the plea agreement and vacated the jury trial set for tomorrow, Wednesday, in the enticement case.

The information, which was filed in court yesterday, charged Macabalo with one count of perjury for allegedly lying before a grand jury.

The defendant signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. She waived her right to prosecution by indictment and consent to prosecution by information.

Under the plea agreement, the U.S. government agrees to move to dismiss the pending indictment (enticement) upon sentencing.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, Macabalo intentionally made false testimony before a grand jury on May 20, 2014.

Macabalo was asked during the grand jury if Raymond B. Roberto asked her to contact a minor girl and see if the girl was willing to have sex with that person for money.

Macabalo answered it's not for money and that Roberto mentioned to "hook up with him."

Macabalo also answered she does not recall the question if Roberto wanted her to convince the girl to have sex with him.

The defendant agreed that she did contact the girl and that she did that because it was a set up.

Asked what she meant by "set up," Macabalo replied it's not really a set up, but "it was a prank."

According to the plea agreement, Macabalo's testimony had a "natural tendency to influence, or was capable of influencing, the grand jury's investigation."

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe is handling the case. Attorney Benjamin Petersburg is counsel for the defendant.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Macabalo in April 2015 after a complaint was filed in court, charging her with enticement of a minor to engage in prostitution and other sexual activity. The indictment was later subsequently filed.

Last December, Manglona granted the U.S. Probation's request to revoke the pre-trial release of Macabalo for smoking methamphetamine or "ice" and violating other pre-trial conditions. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Bench warrant issued against ex-Rota mayor for failure to appear

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has issued a bench warrant against former Rota mayor Melchor A. Mendiola for failing to appear at his arraignment on Friday in connection with a corruption charge.

Camacho granted assistant attorney general Emily Cohen's recommendation to issue a bench warrant and bail in the amount of $500.

Mendiola is reportedly still in Florida.

In issuing the bench warrant, the judge indicated that there may be some concerns such as "can criminal case summons be served on another person other than the defendant and can a criminal case summons be served on a person outside the jurisdictional boundaries and is no longer residing in the CNMI?"

Camacho said it is for Mendiola to formally oppose the bench warrant if he chooses to do so.

During Friday's scheduled arraignment at the Rota Superior Court, Mendiola's co-defendants Alfred Apatang, Bernard Apatang, Tina Atalig, and Stacey Atalig appeared and pleaded not guilty to the information charging each with removal of government property.

Alfred Apatang informed the court that Mendiola was no longer in the CNMI as the former mayor had left the Commonwealth prior to being served with penal summons.

Police officer Sean Taisacan served the penal summons on a person at the residence of Mendiola on Rota last Feb. 25.

The person, an adult, works for Mendiola's wife.

Camacho noted that the matter is further complicated because when the case was filed and the penal summons were issued, all five defendants appeared in court last January.

Camacho said even though the defendants were in court at that time, and the Office of the Attorney General already had in their possession of the penal summons, the OAG failed to serve the penal summons at that time.

The judge said this raised several issues because the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 4(d)(2) states in relevant part that, "summons may be served at any place within the jurisdiction of the CNMI."

Camacho said Rule 4(d)(3) states in relevant part that, "the summons shall be served upon the defendant's dwelling or usual place of abode or business with some persons or suitable age and discretion then residing or employed therein."

Mendiola's co-defendants Alfred Apatang, Bernard Apatang, Tina Atalig, and Stacey Atalig were all personally served with summons and appeared at the arraignment.

Camacho found the four defendants indigent and appointed the same attorneys for them as from the previous case that was already dismissed.

Bench trial will be on June 20, 2016, on Rota.

Superior Court clerk of court Patrick V. Diaz issued the penal summons last Jan. 12 for Mendiola and the four co-defendants to appear for the arraignment at Rota courtroom last Friday, March 4, at 10:30am, with respect to the information.

The information charged Mendiola and co-defendants each with possession or removal of government property offense.

The items alleged to have taken in this case care are four laptops with values ranging from $975 to $2,049, as well as nine picnic tables.

According to the information, Mendiola allegedly unlawfully took nine picnic tables belonging to the Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 26, 2015, on Rota.

Tina Atalig allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Satellite laptop belonging to the Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 26, 2015, on Rota. She is the former secretary of Mendiola.

Alfred Apatang allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Satellite laptop owned by the Rota Mayor's Office between September 2014 and Feb. 27, 2015, on Rota. He is the former field supervisor of Mendiola.

Bernard Apatang allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Satellite laptop owned by Rota Finance Office between September 2014 and Feb. 27, 2015, on Rota.

Stacey Atalig allegedly unlawfully took one Toshiba Tecra laptop belonging to Rota Office of Finance between September 2014 and March 2015 on Rota. She is a former Rota Finance resident director.

Office of Public Auditor Task Force officer JB K. Cepeda stated in his report that they initiated the investigation after receiving a letter from Rota Mayor Efrain M. Atalig, requesting assistance to investigate into Mendiola's questionable transactions.

Cepeda said Atalig apparently discovered the government properties such as computer laptops, folding tables, typewriter, and other items were unaccounted for or missing.

Driver allegedly throws $2,800 worth of 'ice' out of car

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A car driver who was pulled over in Navy Hill on Friday early morning for allegedly committing traffic violation threw out from the vehicle a folded paper towel containing 7.6 grams of methamphetamine or "ice" worth $2,800.

Hong Xiang Li, 30, a Chinese national, was arrested for illegal possession of controlled substance and trafficking of controlled substance (with intent).

Li was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho for bail hearing yesterday afternoon. A $50,000 cash bail was initially imposed on the defendant.

Drug Enforcement Task Force officer Rudolph C. Sablan stated in his report that Police Officer 3 John Mendiola was conducting a routine patrol when he observed a car speeding east on Micro Beach Road without stopping at the stop sign near the Garapan Fire Station three-way intersection on Friday at 3:30am.

Mendiola followed the car, a blue Toyota Corolla with license plate ACL-214, which proceeded toward Navy Hill traffic signal light, entered Chalan Pale Arnold Road, then headed north.

Mendiola activated his emergency lights and siren for a violator stop upon reaching the bus stop of Navy Hill near Twins Super Market.

The car stopped in the parking lot of Grand Market.

The officer noticed that the driver, who was later identified as Li, leaned over to the right side and threw out a white paper towel from the front passenger window.

The car moved forward and completely stopped. Mendiola called for additional police unit to assist him at the scene.

A responding officer recovered from the ground beside the car a bulky white paper towel that contained eight zip-lock baggies of crystalline substance.

Mendiola called dispatch and requested for assistance of a crime scene technician and Drug Enforcement Task Force at the site for further investigation.

A crime scene technician tested the substance presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

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Mazda3 Sedan or Hatchback total price is $19,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $308.50 or $142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $18,510.00.

‘Our Islands, Our Heritage’ is 2016 LibDay slogan

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

“Our Islands, Our Heritage” is the 71st Liberation Day Slogan Competition’s winning entry as Daisy Demapan’s proposal connected with the judges to beat close to 50 other essays in the search for this year’s theme.

Demapan won the $500 top prize and her slogan will be printed on all paraphernalia that will be used in the Liberation Day festivities.

Skywalker Communications Group account director Sophia Alvarez said Demapan’s entry was the one that the Liberation Day committee was looking for.

“What we are looking for is for the people to say what Liberation Day means to them. Her essay was clear, coherent, and powerful. It was an emotional entry.”

Demapan said she played with a lot of words and her entry went into a lot of revisions before she decided to submit the final and simple slogan that caught the fancy of the judges.

She added that hopefully the community would remember what liberation truly means especially for the people who suffered during the battle of Saipan.

“This includes the many Japanese field workers, the Korean comfort women, the American soldiers, the Japanese soldiers, the Carolinians and the Chamorros. Just like how last year the committee emphasized peace in diversity, I want to recognize that war destroys all parts of humanity,” said Demapan, a former *Saipan Tribune* reporter who now works at the Governor’s Office.

“For the indigenous population and for all those who suffered, true liberation is yet to come. There is still a lot to be done socially, politically, and culturally, and I believe that revitalizing our identity, such as what is seen on the island of Guahan (Guam) is one way we can work toward freedom in all aspects.”

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang thanked all who joined the month-long contest and said that there were a lot of good entries but a winner had to be chosen.

“The competition was tough. I’ve read all of the essays and all are good. In the end, the committee had to pick a Top 3 and after that the winner,” said Apatang.

Henry Hofschneider, the SMO special assistant, said the winning slogan would carry the theme and mood toward the 4th of July celebration.

“The Liberation Day is the biggest party in the CNMI and the people can’t wait for it. The kick off was the slogan contest that ran from Feb. 1 to Feb. 29. There were a lot of good entries and it was a hard choice for the committee. We really wanted to get the youth involved, since they will be the ones who will carry out the tradition,” added Hofschneider.

All entries went to four stages of elimination process with Demapan’s winning piece making it to the Top 3. Arnold K. Atalig submitted “Our Islands, Our Legacy” and “Strength in Today, Hope in Tomorrow” by Christine Roque were the other finalists.

The selection committee—composed of members of the Liberation Day committee, representatives of Skywalker Communications Group, and several staff of the Saipan Mayor’s Office—first narrowed down the entries to the Top 10, then Top 5, and Top 3 before choosing the winning piece.

The names and contact information of those who joined were removed from the slogan entries and the accompanying essay to eliminate bias in the voting.

$1.7M for CNMI historical projects on hold indefinitely

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Defense’s longstanding commitment to fund $1.7 million in historical projects in the NMI has not been included in the president’s budget proposal for next fiscal year, such funding has never been requested, and the commitment will remain delayed until an environmental review process for the contested large-scale live fire ranges on Tinian and Pagan is completed, the office of U.S. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) confirmed yesterday, citing information obtained from the Defense Department.

Saipan Tribune asked Sablan’s office last month if DoD has ever formally requested the funding and authorization for this $1.7 million to support cultural resource mitigation measures stipulated in the 2011 programmatic agreement between Defense, the CNMI, and Guam.

“No, they have not,” deputy communications director Tina Sablan yesterday. “And Congressman Sablan shares the same concerns that Commonwealth officials and historic preservation advocates have expressed, that the Department of Defense should be held accountable for commitments outlined in the Programmatic Agreement to support and fund cultural resource mitigation measures.”

“The congressional office will continue to monitor completion of the revised CJMT EIS, and DoD’s efforts to follow through on all their obligations, including the obligation to protect the cultural, historic, and environmental treasures of the Northern Marianas from harm,” Tina Sablan told *Saipan Tribune.*

‘Remain committed’

The Defense Department, though, informed Sablan’s office last month that they “remain committed” to funding cultural resources mitigations measures for Tinian, “if the portions of the action planned for Tinian…are carried out.

They were referring to the small arms firing ranges on Tinian approved in the 2010 project for the Guam/CNMI military buildup project.

Defense reiterated, in an “information paper” responding to Sablan’s questions, that these training ranges on Tinian “are on hold, pending completion of the ongoing” live fire project.

Defense also confirmed, when pressed, that the $1.7 million for duration efforts are not included in the president’s 2017 budget proposal.

The 2011 programmatic agreement between the CNMI and DoD stipulated, among others, that the military would seek to include as part of “upcoming president budget submission a request for Congressional authorization and appropriation to transfer a total of $1.7 million in DoD funds to another federal agency with authority to support new construction or renovation of existing buildings.”

This would cover $1.2 million for a curation facility on Saipan, and $500,000 for a cultural and interpretive center on Tinian.

VOUCHERS

From Page 1

This brings the credit to about $120 per account.

Eligible accounts are active and inactive CUC residential accounts with a service location and meter on residential property as of Oct. 10, 2014.

The vouchers were supposed to expire Oct. 31 of last year, but CUC decided to ask the Office of the Governor for an extension and it was approved so the vouchers were made available for use until March 1.

Yaquinto said customers may be able to see the credit reflected in their billing “hopefully in the next months.”

“It will be as of March 1st but they just won’t see it actually on their bill until a little bit later,” Yaquinto said.

“When they get their March bills, or it might not show in their March bills, it might show in later bills, but it will be reflected as if it was in place in March,” he added.

The total $10 million in credit vouchers came from BSI as a gift to Saipan utility customers and part of BSI’s community chest fund, which the company had vowed to release 60 days after it was issued an exclusive license to build a casino resort on Saipan.

Each eligible household were initially credited the amount of $635.71 in their accounts.

Not everyone was able to use the vouchers, however, especially those who didn’t have utilities after Typhoon Soudelor.

MAIL

From Page 1

ing the delivery of mail in the CNMI.

“We’re trying to talk to the U.S Postal Services for several years now,” Star Marianas Air president Shaun Christian told *Saipan Tribune.*

However, Star Marianas wasn’t aware or notified when the bidding process for mail carrier was started and was eventually awarded to United Airlines just last year.

“We were never notified of any previous bids apparently were out sometime last year,” Christian said.

Christian said they have sought USPS on how they can be notified once there is a bidding process out for carrying mail in the CNMI.

“We’re trying to find out where these bids or requests for bids are published,” Christian said.

He added that they are listed in the government supplier award management system, and have access to the Federal Business Opportunities website but they weren’t able to see any bids come up.

“Maybe we’re not looking in the right place? I don’t know,” Christian said.

Saipan Tribune learned that United has 18 months left in their contract with USPS and that it will only look into securing future services once the existing contract is finished.

According to Christian, they were advised by USPS to communicate with United Airlines with regards to subcontracting.

However, Star Marianas was concerned about 14 CFR 298.35 or the “limitations on carriage of mail” which states “an air taxi operator or commuter air carrier is not authorized to carry mail except pursuant to contract with the U.S. Postal Service.”

“When we got the message from the Post Office, we became a little bit concerned because they’re telling us to contact United,” Christian said, “With the airlines of our size and air taxi operators, it seems to contradict what the Post Office is saying because the law seems to say that there has to be a direct contract with the Postal Service.”

On a similar note, Star Marianas noted that United has been subcontracting the carriage of mail to air taxi operators as they have observed Szabo Aerospace, LLC aircraft delivering mail to Tinian and Business Air/AirNow as well as Arctic Circle Air, LLC aircraft delivering mail to Saipan.

“We’re trying to find out from the post office how they’re able to do that without a direct contract, or maybe they have a direct contract, we don’t know for sure, but there does seem to be confusion in the way USPS is directing us,” Christian said.

“We’re willing, able, and have the capability to assist with the mail process. We just need to understand what is it that we need to do and we’re a little bit confused based upon the instructions to go to the United as to how that complies to federal regulations,” he added.

Christian said they have the fleet and would have the authority to do it based on their operations specifications with the Federal Aviation Authority. They now also have a base of operations on Guam and operate daily scheduled flights to the island.

He added that Star Marianas “certainly can” deliver mail daily to all three islands of the CNMI— as opposed to only the current two deliveries per week on Tinian on Tuesdays and Fridays.

“Whatever we can do to improve on that,” Christian said, noting that they too are consumers of the postal service.

“We would love to be able to assist in improving this delivery,” he added.

14,000 lbs in delayed mail

Last Sunday, concerned resident Dr. Philip Dauterman aired his distress to the media regarding delivery delays of several packages.

He said he has been contacting both Guam and Saipan post offices with regards to packages “scanned in Guam in late February, then seemingly disappeared.”

“Per phone call to Juan at the C.K. Saipan office, United Airlines has 14,000 lbs of Saipan-bound mail delayed at the Guam airport and unable to send to Saipan in a timely manner. This affects the entire CNMI with delayed inbound mail,” Dauterman said.

Saipan Tribune sent an email to United Airlines Sunday afternoon but was unable to receive comments as of press time.

Just last month, the U.S Department of Justice started an investigation on whether top airlines are complying with contracts to carry mail cargo for the USPS. Civil investigative demand was sent out to United Continental Holdings Inc., Delta Air Lines Inc., and American Airlines Group Inc. about the USPS mail they carry.

TDHC

From Page 1

business operations.

HKE asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to declare that the company is a legitimate employer for purposes of the CW program.

HKE requested the court to set aside each decision of the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office affirming the denial of the company’s CW petitions and dismissing each administrative appeal.

The plaintiff asked the court to remand all HKE petitions to the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office for instructions to process the company’s CW-1 petitions in accordance with the court’s order.

Long stated in the complaint that HKE timely submitted its CW-1 extension petitions and CW-1 transfer to USCIS for approval.

By letter dated Dec. 9, 2014, USCIS denied virtually all of HKE’s pending CW-1 petitions.

Long said other petitions were denied by letters issued in February 2015 and April 2015.

Long said all of the denials were based primarily on grounds that HKE was not engaged in a legitimate business for CW purposes.

HKE appealed the denials to the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office.

Long said the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office affirmed that HKE is not engaged in a legitimate business for CW purposes and then dismissed each appeal.

Long said the dismissal letters were dated Feb. 1, 2, and 3, 2016.

The lawyer said the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office’s determination is “arbitrary, capricious, and otherwise contrary to law.”

Long asserted that CW regulations relied upon by USCIS are inconsistent with and contrary to the express congressional intent set forth in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law).

Long said USCIS adopted and utilized a standard that applies only to HKE and will not apply to any other employer.

The agency decision, he said, violates due process on grounds that USCIS relying on CW regulations that lack guidance or standards for evaluating whether a petitioner submitting an I-129 CW petition is engaged in a legitimate business.

Long said the agency decision that HKE is not engaged in a legitimate business violates equal protection and is not supported by the substantial evidence of record.

‘Million Dollar $cholar’ looking for sponsors

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kagman High School’s “Million Dollar $cholar” program is looking for sponsors that can help raise funds for 20 students to attend college off island.

Speaking before the business community, KHS teacher Gerard van Gils shared his students’ need with regards to attending college.

“The challenge with scholarships is you have to actually arrive at college before you can claim scholarships that are being awarded to you,” van Gils said.

The club’s goal is to raise $1 million in scholarship funds for their first generation of “Million Dollar $cholars.”

“Our goal is to raise funds for flights, clothing, stuff for their dorms, to enable them to make that first step to college,” he added.

According to van Gils, about half of the KHS’ students are living below the poverty line.

Identifying the top 25 of their graduating class and those who wanted to go off-island for higher education, the club to help the group of students to go to college was formed.

“Of our 20 ‘Million Dollar $cholars,’ 19 are below the poverty line,” van Gils said.

He added that they want to make their students career-and-college ready and this is one way to help them.

“The Million Dollar $cholar program is an opportunity for our students to raise awareness for higher education,” van Gils said.

During his talk, van Gils presented one of his students, Jessa Camacho.

Camacho, he said, has been accepted to five different universities so far and has been offered more than $70,000 in scholarships.

Camacho read to the audience a part of an essay she wrote for her Gates Millenium Scholarship application, on which she shared her personal experience inside their tin house during Typhoon Soudelor.

“Day one of school, the teacher hands me a school supply list, as though my parents would choose to buy me paper notebooks instead of roofing nails. Kids in concrete houses showed up in new school clothes, I came to school wearing the only clothes that didn’t fly away in the storm. School starts in the dark, with no Internet, and I’m expected to turn in scholarship applications and write essays as though I have the same advantages of kids my age attending prep schools in the United States. My teacher tells me to write something true, show how smart I am, and convince you that I am college-ready. I can do that,” her essay says.

van Gils

“Something true: I never again want to be inside a house as it is being demolished.

Something smart: Education and money are twin sisters. The poor will never have an equal starting point as the rich and my intelligence is not in question.

I am college ready: I’ve lived through the calm, disease, of the eye of a typhoon. Living in a dorm doesn’t scare me,” it added.

Camacho’s essay and 19 other students’ will be part of a book that they will publish as part of the fundraiser.

“We’ve written a book, and this is a book of my students’ college essays. It’s called ‘Reflections of Survival and Scholarship.’ These students have survived a massive typhoon and even more difficult, they’ve survived poverty. We’re going to sell this book in a few weeks,” van Gils said.

“Right now we’re looking for corporate sponsors to pay for the printing of the book and also support our students as they go off to college,” he added.

Those who would like to support can contact van Gils through KHS and donate to their account at gofundme.com.

Van Gils said they were able to send one student last year to college. Aside from raising funds for 20 students this year, they are also already working on the juniors to prepare them.

SBDC offers free business workshops on Saipan

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, through the Department of Commerce and in partnership with the Commonwealth Development Authority, will be offering free business workshops “How to Start A Business” by Orrin Pharmin from 10am to 12pm and “Customer Service” by Eileen A. Babauta from 1:30pm to 2:30pm on Wednesday, March 9, at the Northern Marianas College-Saipan (Room D1).

“How to Start A Business” workshop will help individuals learn everything they will need to get started, including an introduction to business plans and the importance of preparing one; exploring the legal forms of business (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability partnership/company) and which one is right for your business needs; local or federal licensing requirements for the business. Participants will be able to obtain vital information and resources to start and own a business. This training will take the mystery out of starting a business and help participants better evaluate their business idea.

The “Customer Service” workshop will provide the knowledge needed for exceptional customer service. Good customer service is vital for all businesses, large or small. It can have a direct impact on customer loyalty and where potential customers choose to spend their money. Simply put, the higher quality customer service you provide, the higher level of customer satisfaction you will enjoy, and that will translate into repeat business and more revenue.

Deadline to pre-register is one business day before workshop at 12pm. Seating is limited so advanced registration is required (this is on a first come, first serve basis). Walk-ins are allowed and granted on space availability. Workshop must meet minimum enrollment in order to run. If the workshop fails to meet such enrollment, CNMI SBDC reserves the right to reschedule or cancel such workshops.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is a member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN). Its mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated islands in the western pacific by providing free one-to-one, confidential business counseling and high quality training to existing small businesses and startups.

For more information about registering for these workshops, contact Lori Pangelinan at lori@pacificsbdc.com or the Department of Commerce at (670) 664-3018/3000. ***(PR)***

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DENNIS B. CHAN

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and officials and volunteers of the local American Red Cross chapter pose for a photo outside the Office of the Governor building last week.

'Everyday heroes' honored this March

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog declared March "American Red Cross Month," honoring the long hours the islands' committed volunteer lent to secure the island's recovery after Typhoon Soudelor last year.

The proclamation, signed by Torres and Hocog, to a crowd of Red Cross officials and volunteers last Thursday, honors these "everyday heroes" who gave of themselves to assist their neighbors when they needed a helping hand.

Over 250 of these extraordinary local heroes, the proclamation said, tirelessly helped their neighbors recover in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsch spoke about the storm's "incredible devastation" and this gratitude to all the hometown heroes present at the Office of the Governor conference room gave "so selflessly gave of themselves and worked tirelessly, 16, 18 hours day, oftentimes in very difficult situations in work and at home and at the Red Cross to help those who are the most vulnerable and needy in our community."

"It's just unbelievable the amount the partnerships that were established with our federal partners, with our state Commonwealth government, and so many the organizations that stood up during that difficult time," added Hirsch.

The Red Cross was on "the frontline" of recovery and provided over $5 million in direct assistance to the people in the community. He also thanked the large contingent of volunteers from the U.S. mainland who assisted efforts during the typhoon response and outreach, and now with long-term recovery.

Hirsch also thanked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for its help with immediate disaster case management and a continuing disaster case management program. "This is a program that is going to run for the 18 to 24 months," Hirsch said. "And just as the governor said this is really the critical time where we are seeing a lot of people who didn't get enough help. The mission is to map the resources and to find out what's in our community, around the nation, and around the world and try to connect those resources with the people that still really need them."

Red Cross staff Kyley Sweeney, from Chicago, was on Saipan for about a month during the response efforts. He has been on island for about five or six months after returning briefly to the mainland after his first stint.

"It's great. I love Saipan, I love the people," Sweeney said when asked to describe his experiences. "That's why I came back. I just kind of bonded with everybody and saw the strength of what happened at the chapter. They got a lot of stronger. People came out, gave their time and really wanted to be engaged."

Sweeney highlighted a long process that saw results and were meaningful for people like being able to help typhoon victims work through the paperwork process of appealing their FEMA case.

"People are so happy," he said. "They are in terrible situations and they are still smiling and joking around and that's really great to see."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas March Against Cancer overall chair Geri C. Dela Cruz, fourth left, receives a reproduced version of the ticket donated by Delta Airlines officials on Saipan led by sales account executive Chris A. Concepcion, fifth left. Also in photo is Commonwealth Cancer Association program director Juan L. Babauta.

Delta throws support to MMAC

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delta Airlines continued with its service to the community and once again is supporting this year's Marianas March Against Cancer set on May 13 and 14 at the Hopwood Junior High School grounds in Chalan Piao.

Delta donated one round-trip main cabin ticket to anywhere in the U.S. and another round-trip main cabin ticket to Japan plus $400 worth of travel credit vouchers.

MMAC committee chair Geri C. Dela Cruz again thanked Delta for their continued support to the annual event. Delta is the 2016 MMAC's first confirmed title sponsor.

"We extend our thanks to Delta for their partnership in the battle against cancer," said Dela Cruz during last Thursday's presentation at Delta's passenger terminal at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport.

"All MMAC teams will be selling $5 raffle tickets to the public so we encourage everyone to purchase your tickets for a chance to win these awesome prizes from Delta," added Dela Cruz, the MMAC overall committee chair.

Delta sales account executive Chris A. Concepcion, who is also the MMAC overall committee vice chair, said their company is committed in supporting MMAC.

"Delta has been a strong supporter of the MMAC for many years now. We commend the MMAC committee for their efforts in raising badly needed funds for the fight against cancer," said Concepcion.

"We've all been touched by cancer one way or another so we invite everyone to join us as we work to eradicate this deadly disease," he added.

All proceeds of the annual MMAC event, from donations by sponsors and other individuals, will go to fund various projects of the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Issuing vouchers to assist cancer patients with medical costs of treatment, information dissemination in raising cancer awareness and prevention in the CNMI, and monthly meetings with other cancer survivors are some of CCA's projects. They also provide other support services and serves as chief advocate for cancer issues in the Commonwealth.

The Saipan Mayor's Office has also pledged in providing logistics and other assistance to MMAC for the two-day event.

For more information, email MMAC@gmail.com or visit CCA's website at www.ccamarianas.org.

Regents sets qualifications for next NMC president

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The next president of the Northern Marianas College must meet the requirements set by the school's Board of Regents. A search committee has already been formed that has been tasked to screen all applicants and will be making the recommendation to the board.

The search committee has 10 members composed of two from the NMC faculty and one each from the NMC board, students, staff, alumni, an NMC dean or chief, CNMI Board of Education member, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and two from the community.

The applicant for president, based on NMC Board of Regents resolution 2016-02, must have earned a doctorate degree from a U.S. accredited university or foreign equivalent; seven years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education of which five years are continuous or a combination of at least seven years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience; has an experience working in a multicultural environment, preferably in the Pacific region and in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; demonstrated knowledge of Federal programs and grants application to higher education; and substantiated experience in accreditation processes, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building.

The search committee has set a one-month period of accepting applications that started from the first day of the publication of the job vacancy announcement last week. The committee is also giving former applicants for the NMC president post the opportunity to re-apply.

Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero is the chairperson of the 10-member Presidential Search Committee, which will screen all applicants before making the recommendation to the Board of Regents. The board will then choose from the short list submitted by the committee who will be the next NMC president.

Gemma Noelani Somol (NMC student), Amanda Diaz and Patty Coleman (NMC faculty), Daisie Camacho-Renguul (NMC staff), lawyer Michael Evangelista (NMC alumni), NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service program dean Dr. Tim Kock (NMC administration), CNMI State Board of Education chairman Herman T. Guerrero, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Ann M. Palacios, and former senator Maria Frica Pangelinan are the other SC members.

The NMC president position will be getting a salary between $80,000 and $100,000. David Peter J. Attao, NMC's Administration and Resource Development dean, is the acting NMC president.

Lions Club resumes bus shelter program

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club has resumed its repair and repainting of bus stop shelters by adding two more that they adopted. The bus stops that were spruced up last Feb. 28 are located near the Northern Marianas College area going to Finasisu and As Lito Road.

The non-profit group said this is their way of supporting the Public School System's program of rehabilitating and restoring all bust stops. The SFALC was also allowed to put their logo after painting the bus stops.

"This project is a good gesture in giving back to the community knowing it will be the students who are going to benefit in the beautification of these bus shelters," said SFALC president Annamae Adaza.

Adaza added that they are also appealing to the students and other members of the community to avoid in vandalizing the shelters and instead keep its cleanliness and neatness.

"At the same time appreciate those companies, individuals, groups, and organizations like [SFALC] for the effort in painting and cleaning the bus stops," Adaza said.

SFALC also renovated several bus shelters in Tanapag in early February. Most of the bus shelters were damaged by Typhoon Soudelor in August last year.

SFALC vice president Rey Joson then thanked their members in helping repaint and repair the bus shelters. "We are thankful to our Fellow Lions who devote their time in doing the project and to our District Governor Daniel Yang for the support."

"The Lions clubs are always ready to help [the community where they are]. They are making a difference around the world. Whenever the Lions get together, problems get smaller and communities get better," he added.

The Lions is composed of 46,000 local clubs that has over 1.4 million members in 200 countries, making it the world's largest community-based organization. The Lions Club International will be celebrating its 100th founding anniversary on June 7 next year.

To learn more about Lions Club International, check their website at lionsclubs.org or call Adaza at 4835237 or SFALC secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The before and after photos of two bus shelters repainted and repaired by the Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club that are located near the Northern Marianas College going to Finasisu and at As Lito Road.

Temporary water service interruption for Chinatown, portions of Gualo Rai

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the village of Chinatown and portions of Gualo Rai are currently experiencing a temporary water service interruption due to a malfunctioned pressure-reducing valve.

CUC water personnel are currently repairing the malfunctioned pressure reducing valve and repairs are anticipated to be completed on Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 12pm and customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of services.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com,/CommonwealthUtilitiesComoration/). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

14LS' jury selection on March 14 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "14LS" that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2016, at 8:30am in courtroom 223A is hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, please contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at 236-9766. ***(PR)***

Local GOP caucus on March 15

The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its caucus on March 15, from 6pm to 8:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion in Susupe. Voting starts promptly at 6:30pm and ends at 8:30pm. ***(PR)***

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NEW RESTAURANTS LOOKING FOR STAFF

Two new food and beverage outlets looking for friendly, dedicated and service-oriented staff to join our team.

We are looking for:

- **Accountant**
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- **Cooks / Pastry Cooks**
- **Stewards**
- **Assistant Managers**

Previous experience is preferred, as is command of foreign languages, e.g. Chinese.

Interested applicants please send your resume and short introduction to sunshinejobs@icloud.com

MVA joins Guangdong International Travel Fair

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Marianas Visitors Authority, Tinian Dynasty Holiday, and Best Sunshine International promoted the Northern Mariana Islands at the Guangdong International Travel Fair on Feb. 25-27, 2016, in Guangzhou, China, as part of the Brand USA pavilion. Pictured from left are Dynasty Holiday personnel; MVA Trade Manager for Guangzhou Tammy Sun, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres; MVA Marketing specialist Laura Hsiao; and MVA China director Jacky Zhu.

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined representatives from other countries and regions at the Guangdong International Travel Fair on Feb. 25-27, 2016, in Guangzhou, China.

Over 120,000 attended this year's fair, "one of the most influential B2Bfairs focusing on outbound travel, inbound travel, and MICE travel," according the event's official website.

The MVA joined the Brand USA Pavilion with industry partners Dynasty Holidays and Best Sunshine International, Ltd. where the team distributed information and brochures to promote the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) as a world-class destination.

"Guangdong is one of the China's largest cities and one of the NMI's largest source cities," said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres. "The Guangdong International Travel Fair was an important opportunity to forge and reinforce industry partnerships and share more of what our islands have to offer to potential visitors."

In addition to paying courtesy visits at Tuniu.com, Qulv.com, GZL and Dynasty Holidays, the MVA had media interviews with *Guangzhou Daily* newspaper, Holiday Media, and FM106.1radio. Several other mass media and travel trade media outlets extolled the appeal of the beautiful beaches and ocean on Saipan and their desire to visit Tinian and Rota in the near future.

The appeal of the NMI as a destination where families can enjoy leisure activities in a clean environment was noted, and the potential for "sister schools," student exchange, and cultural programswas also raised.

This year's fair attracted 956 exhibitors from 45 countries and regions. The MVA also met with top travel agents at an appreciation dinner hosted by Brand USA. ***(PR)***

Beautify My Marianas on Tinian

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
JROTC cadets of Tinian Jr. Sr. High School collected 115 bags of trash over two days at the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 13-14, 2016, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program.

The Marianas Visitors Authority's Beautify My Marianas program was an important part of last month's Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, providing an opportunity for a local school group to support the festival while raising money.

The JROTC cadets of Tinian Jr. Sr. High School cleaned the festival grounds at Kammer Beach for two consecutive days, collecting a total of 115 bags of trash.

"Thank you for giving these kids the opportunity to assist in keeping our beach and tourist place beautiful," said Army Instructor and retired 1st Sgt. Jose T. King in the group's post-action report.

Participating cadets were: Keithley Marquez, Jemimah Cruz, Michelle Quichocho, Nicole Quichocho, Aira Cabahug, Kaeiliyah Nabors, Akiko Atalig, Rashmi Adhikari, Mariah Cruz, Renuka Shrestha, Amanda Jumao-as, Hannah Biton, Jovilyn Ancheta, Anna Lisa Santos, Marco Bautista, Archie Clemente, Justine Furton, and Jericho Lagunay

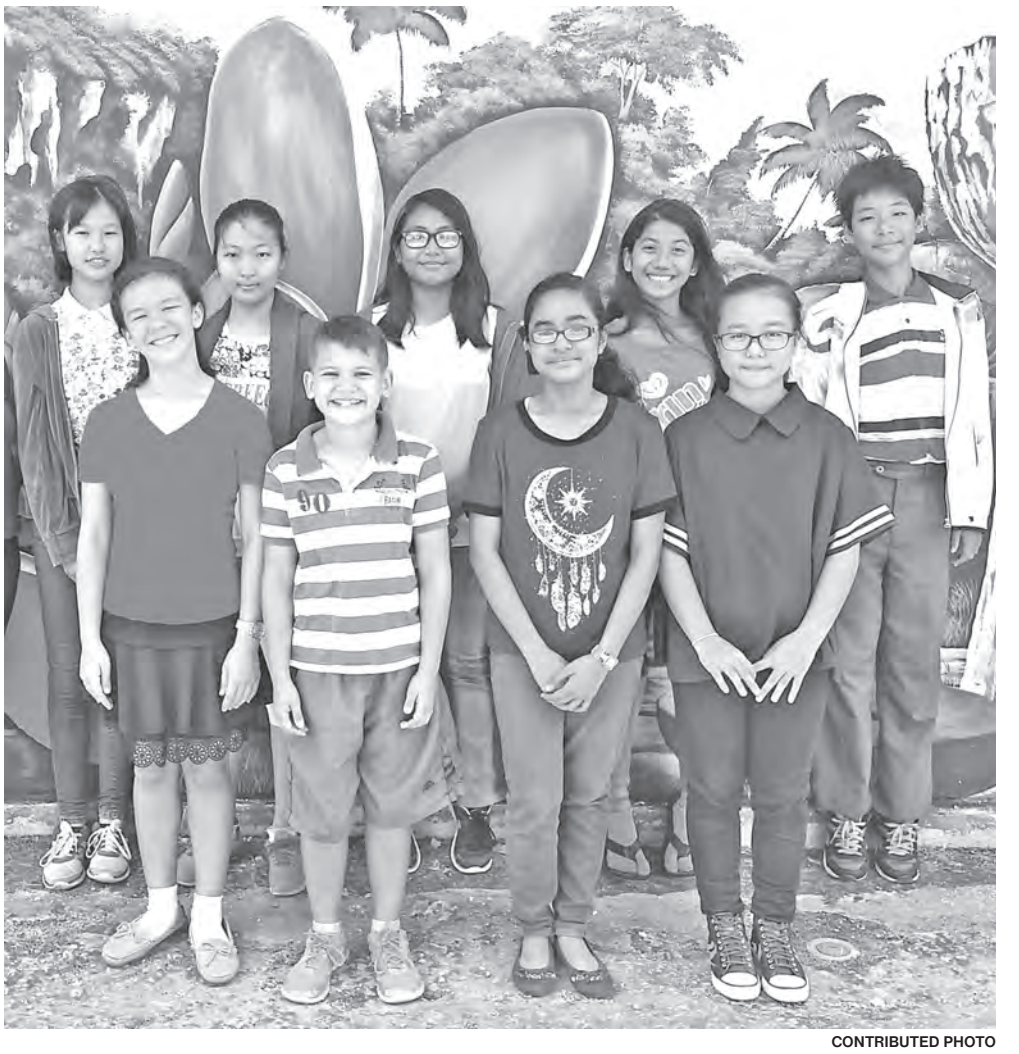
Beautify My Marianas offers $100 to student or other groups that pick up trash over 1-mile in an assigned area (payment may increase based on difficulty). For more information on Beautify My Marianas or an application, visit the MVA homepage at www.mymarianas.com. Groups must apply to participate and document their cleanup with a written report, list of participants, and photos. ***(PR)***

DMS recognizes participants to NJSDA

Over 100 students competed to earn the top spots in the recent National Junior Speech and Debate competition.

Dandan Middle School proudly honors its Tottots—Bina Mary Reyes, who placed first in her Carolinian Prose reading; Holly Liban, second in Dramatic Interpretation; and conjointly Rio Ayu Shadow and Grace Zhang who made it to the Top 5 for Original Oratory and Declamation, respectively. Four out of the nine DMS students broke into semifinals.

Jonathan Wolf triumphed first in his Declamation and Prose Reading. He additionally made it second place on his Humorous Interpretation event. He will be leaving to compete in the National Junior Speech and Debate competition in Salt Lake City, Utah this coming June. ***(PR)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dandan Middle School sent nine students to the recent regional competition of the National Junior Speech and Debate. From left from row, Rio Ayu Shadow, Jonathan Wolf, Holly Liban, and Jenny Yang. From left back row, Holly Siu, Grace Zhang, Joanna Caguioa, Bina Mary Reyes, and Joseph Zhang.

UOG celebrates Charter Day today

The University of Guam celebrates its 48th Charter Day today, March 8, 2016, at the UOG campus. The Center Courtyard will have live music, food, games and activities for the whole family. The theme this year is "Triton Spirit: One University; Many Voices."

Opening Ceremonies begin at 9am and activities run throughout the day until 5pm. The public is invited to attend.

Charter Day is the largest public event at the University with nearly 5,000 people visiting the campus throughout the day. This year, Charter Day features a multitude of activities and events including campus tours, presentations from the Marine Lab and WERI, the Annual College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Research Conference, the CHamoru Language Competition at the Calvo Field House, agricultural displays, ROTC tactical demonstrations, Chemistry Titration High School Competition and more.

The final event of the President's Cup Competition—"Triton Challenge"—will take place at 3pm and will feature a multi-station relay race among teams of students, alumni and UOG employees.

For details and schedule of events, visit www.uog.edu/charterday. ***(PR)***

‘Mrs. Reagan was champion of efforts to reduce drug use’

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Guam governor Ricardo Bordallo and then-First Lady Madeleine Z. Bordallo meet President and Mrs. Reagan at the White House.

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo yesterday issued the following statement on the passing of former First Lady of the United States, Nancy Reagan.

“I am saddened to learn of the passing of former First Lady Nancy Reagan,” said Bordallo. “Mrs. Reagan was a champion of efforts to reduce drug use throughout the United States and a firm advocate for treatments and a cure to Alzheimer’s. I remember when President and First Lady Reagan visited Guam during my husband’s second term as Governor in 1982. Ricky and I were honored to host them and share with them more about Guam and our people. I fondly remember Nancy sharing with me how beautiful she saw Guam and the warm impression our island made on her. I join our nation and the people of Guam in mourning her loss. My thoughts and prayers are with her family,” she said ***(PR)***

AMP has an opening for Park Ranger

National Park Service officials would like to inform the public of federal career opportunities at American Memorial Park.

The park will soon be opening a vacancy announcement for a Park Ranger (Interpretation), GS-0025-09, full-time permanent position. The annual salary is from $48,968 to $63,654 per year, plus 13.70 percent cost of living allowance and the full-range of federal benefits.

This position is responsible for managing the day-to-day visitor center operations and services, oversees the day-to-day interpretive program operations (i.e. work schedules, priorities, and assignments) and researches, develops and presents a variety of interpretive programs that commemorates and honors the American and Marianas people who died in the World War II Marianas Campaign.

The vacancy announcement will be open from March 8 to March 10 (Eastern Standard Time).

Federal jobs are posted at www.USAJOBS.gov. To access the vacancy announcement, please search for announcement number “PWRO-PI-16-AMME-1644444 DE” between March 8rd – March 10th. If you do not have a current USAJOBS account, you will need to create one online at https://login.usajobs.gov/Account/Create

Please keep in mind that all applicants must submit a resume, respond to the assessment questionnaire, and include other pertinent information, e.g., SF 50, DD 214, etc., to be considered. It is important that you follow instructions as provided on the announcement. Applications must be received prior to 11:59pm (EST) of the closing date of the announcement in order to be considered.

Instructions for an alternate way to submit the application (via fax) is listed in the vacancy announcement.

Applicants are encouraged to review their applications once they’ve submitted their package (clicked “Submit My Answers” button) to ensure that everything is correct and has been processed.

To verify your application is complete, log into your USAJOBS account, https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login. Select the Application Status link and select the more information link for this position. The Details page will display the status of your application, the documentation received and processed, and any correspondence the agency has sent related to this application. Your uploaded documents may take several hours to clear the virus scan process. To return to an incomplete application, log into your USAJOBS account and click Update Application in the vacancy announcement. You must re-select your resume and/or other documents from your USAJOBS account or your application will be incomplete. ***(PR)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP16-BECQ-067
Submission: April 12, 2016 Time: 10:00 A.M.

“TO PROVIDE TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION FOR THE BECQ ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM”

The Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after **March 08, 2016** at the BECQ office located at the Gualo Rai Center Building, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan or electronically by e-mail request to **reinacamacho@becq.gov.mp** during regular working hours.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for **March 28, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.** local time, in the 2nd Floor BECQ conference room.

Questions regarding this RFP may be submitted by facsimile to **Ms. Reina Camacho**, (670) 664-8540 or by email at **reinacamacho@becq.gov.mp** no later than the **close of business, April 01, 2016**. Responses to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
Administrator of BECQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

NOTICE OF SALE
CDA FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby gives notice that it is seeking interested buyers, bids and proposals for the fee simple purchase or the leasing of its foreclosed properties. The specific foreclosed properties available for sale or lease are:

LOT NO.	LOCATION	SIZE (sqm)	DESCRIPTION	ASKING PRICE
TINIAN PROPERTIES **Tuesday, March 8, 2016** **NMC Campus after the Stakeholders’ Meeting**				
1	131 T 31	Marpo	1,322	Duplex	70,000
2	251 T 52	Marpo Valley	2,049	Vacant	15,000
3	251 T 53	Marpo Valley	5,522	Vacant	40,000
4	031 T 19	Tachungya	1,085	Vacant	22,000
5	031 T 20	Tachungya	1,080	Vacant	22,000
6	031 T 21	Tachungya	1,080	Vacant	22,000
7	031 T 22	Tachungya	1,089	Vacant	22,000
8	031 T 23	Tachungya	1,089	Vacant	22,000
9	268 T 05	Marpo	32,707	Vacant	150,000
10	118 T 09	Marpo	962	Vacant	15,000
11	118 T 10	Marpo	962	Vacant	15,000
12	118 T 11	Marpo	962	Vacant	15,000

Fee Simple purchase and Auctions (A) & Leasehold or Ground Lease with Option to Purchase (B)

1. Interested bidders and buyers are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of CDA in the property are being sold **“AS IS”** and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or improvements or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer or lessee.
2. CDA reserves the following rights:
   a. To withdraw any or all of the listed properties before sale or lease or before a bid for such property is accepted, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   b. To reject any and all bids or proposals.

Interested persons may contact Carmelita Dela Cruz at 433-9203 for more information or to inspect properties, appraisals and or photos.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 16-019

Opening Date: Friday, February 26, 2016
Closing Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Internal Auditor

DUTIES: Under the direct supervision of the CUC Board of Directors. May supervise staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Coordinates and conducts comprehensive internal financial, operational and/or information systems audits to determine compliance with, and effectiveness of established controls and regulations; implements audit programs to address and improve operational efficiency and to minimize risk exposure. Researches business control needs and identifies audit scope and objectives; prepares audit work plans; identifies key stakeholders; and determines scheduling and audit processes. Performs and/or coordinates assessments and internal audit activities related to controls, compliance, and operational efficiency; analyzes risk; collects, researches and analyzes financial and operational data, records and information; and identifies issues and deficiencies. Communicates and documents audit findings, risk exposures, and internal control issues; prepares and presents reports and recommendations for corrective actions, internal control improvements, and methods to improve operational efficiency. Reviews and evaluates internal audit processes and procedures; provides recommendations for efficiency and quality improvements and/or automated processes. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY : $82,995.00 per annum. (Salary is negotiable based on qualifications and experience.)
POSITIONS : One (1).
CONTRACT : Two (2) Year Contract.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: **Education:** Bachelor’s Degree in business, finance or related field and 5-7 years of related experience; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation. **Licensing/Certification Requirements:** Valid U.S. Driver’s License with appropriate class; Certified Internal Auditor or Certified Information Systems Auditor. **Knowledge of:** Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; US Generally Accepted Auditing Standards; Financial, management and operational analysis principles; Internal audit methods, controls and standards relevant to area of assignment; Mathematical principles; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology. **Skill In:** Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Conducting comprehensive internal audits; Assessing internal controls and risk; Reviewing operational effectiveness and compliance; Identifying audit scope and objectives; Planning and implementing schedules and audit process flow; Researching and analyzing data and information; Documenting and presenting audit findings and recommendations; Providing customer service and advising management on compliance practices; Reviewing processes and providing recommendations to improve efficiencies and quality; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

How Congress can help Flint, and other cities too

Congress has finally come up with a sensible way to help Flint, Mich., clean up its drinking water—and its plan could also benefit any American city that needs to get the lead out of its water supply.

Flint's problem is a special emergency, but lead pipes are a persistent concern for many other cities. The Environmental Protection Agency doesn't have an exact count, but between 6 million and 11 million American homes still draw their water through lead pipes, some dating back to the 19th century.

Flint made its problem worse by running corrosive water from the Flint River through the system for 17 months. But even when water supplies are properly treated, the lead in such pipes can leach out. And when children drink that water, it can cause convulsions, brain damage and even death. So it's important that lead service lines eventually be torn out and replaced everywhere.

The plan from the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works—which needs approval from the full Senate—would do two things. First, it would offer $100 million in loans for any water utility in a state of emergency (a category that includes only Flint). This loan would be administered by the state of Michigan, and could be used by Flint to help pay for replacing the lead pipes that run to people's homes from water mains under the streets.

The city may well have preferred a simple grant, given the poor condition of its finances. But if Flint were unable to repay, the state would be on the hook for the loan, so the corroded pipes could be replaced no matter what.

The second part of the Senate deal would apply to cities beyond Flint. It would put $70 million in seed money into an existing program that lets water utilities borrow from the U.S. Treasury at low interest rates for up to 35 years. (Congress created this program under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act in 2014, but has yet to significantly fund it.)

The WIFIA program can lend as much as $60 for every dollar it has in capital, so that the $70 million allocation could provide for $4.2 billion in loans—enough to provide long-term financing for lead-pipe replacement in many places.

Other cities have found the work is affordable if they can pay for it gradually. Lansing, Mich., for one—a city in economic straits similar to Flint's—has been able to replace more than 13,000 of its 14,000 lead pipes since 2005, at a cost of about $3,000 per house. Madison, Wis., has likewise replaced virtually all of its 8,000 lead pipes, financing the effort partly from ratepayers and partly with revenue from telecom companies that pay to put antennas on water towers.

If the Senate deal passes and so many cities take part as to exhaust the initial funds, Congress could increase the amount available. The financial cost of acting shouldn't stand in the way of making sure all U.S. drinking water is lead-free.

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Three readers

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

While still writing a daily opinion column for *Saipan Tribune* last week, I ran into the PSS commissioner coming down the stairs of the PSS office near to Marianas High School. I said, "Hi, I had not seen you for a while." She replied, "Oh, I see you everyday in the newspaper."

That she knew I was writing daily, even if she did not read the articles, was already a marvel. I told her that I might be joining the ranks of teachers at PSS again, and I might quit writing the end of April, and she exclaimed: "No, keep writing even when you are teaching. Our teachers read your articles." That turned marvel into wonder.

At last year's Taste of the Marianas on the AMP grounds, a guy from Finasisu named Lino who did not mind missing the molars on both sides up-and-down his dental chops, was seated with me. After I introduced myself, he beamed and said that I looked older than the paper photo but that he was familiar with what I wrote since he followed it closely. I saw him again a year later with a group of folks; he extended a pointing arm: "My writer."

Last weekend, I helped a colleague secure a round-trip ticket from SPN to D.C. and back. He comes from Maryland, retired from teaching in Rota and the community college. He lives in my neighborhood and he has a tendency to despair over losing control over his brain cells, often waking up in deep despair, even when he takes his depression pills. A highly regarded person within the teaching profession, a trained linguist out of the U in Oahu, he often just rests his head on the table, frustrated at the growing inability "to make simple decisions," let alone, being conscious about crucial decisions he needed to make on a day-to-day basis.

He often informs me of alternative Pinyin spellings, remembering a few from my four-year stint teaching in northeast China, but he studied both the spoken and written hanzi (characters). Most recently in March, he pointed my misspelling of the name of former Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval as "Brain." The governor probably is, but the spelling mistake was on the Word Processing Program I use, deciding to correct without asking permission. "Brain" after all would be more common than Brian!

Now at least, I know that my erudite neighbor glances at my stuff. But it was while securing a plane ticket from a travel office he patronizes that the young man on the other side of the counter revealed he followed my articles in the papers. I thought he was just feeding me a line since he was an agent who daily has to satisfy the whims of customers, so after I found out he had come from Sichuan on the foothills of the Himalayas, I named several cities around Chengdu including places he evidently had not been to.

He smiled, pulled out the day's issue of the *ST*, flipped the pages to the Opinion Page, and said he was reading it on his break; asked me to hold it while he came out of his side of the counter to have our picture taken. He told me of items he read from previous articles I wrote, and I left the place thinking, I found me one ardent reader!

For a while now, my editor and I have this ongoing joke that we could at least count on three readers of my column. The editor reads it for the appropriateness of style and the relevance of content, so that makes two of us. My mother in Honolulu says she reads them because they must be "important since she could not understand them," a line she often used to compare me to the other siblings, and as a cover for her not finishing high school education. That's three, for sure.

Since coming back to Saipan from China a year ago, I discovered that the picture with my articles has gotten me known on island, or at least, salespersons know how to call me by name when I needed anything from the store. I am usually embarrassed when someone recognizes me by name since they could either be former short-term learners at the language class I taught for the Philippine Consulate, or former SVES students who have grown out of their short pants. A Filipina saleslady on island once blurted out how proud she was that a Pinoy wrote for the papers.

A colleague at BOE Board once told members when I attended their meeting for a cause that I wrote for the newspaper, and I pushed members of the Board to learn how to use their dictionaries. He was kind and a bit sarcastic but he made his point. Grammatical finesse is not our intent; engagement in dialogue is. I do "converse" with readers more than just at a passing glance.

I had been dubbed as someone who is addicted to writing. That may just be so. I do keep an eye not just on style but also on content. I tell my editor that if my subject is not relevant to the island audience, or understandable to individuals, he need not print it. Frequency is not the issue; relevance is.

OK, commissioner, I will continue writing, though come April, while teaching, not with the frequency of previous months. And three steady readers are good enough!

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Honesty doesn't win presidential elections

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY
Bloomberg View

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In his speech about the U.S. presidential campaign on Thursday, Mitt Romney described both parties' front-runners, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, as dishonest. Voters seem to agree. Is it all-important, though, for a successful candidate to be perceived as honest, or more honest than his or her chief rival? Previous election results appear to indicate the opposite.

"Dishonesty is Donald Trump's hallmark," Romney said after cataloging the developer's business failures and before listing some of his false statements during the campaign. Then he lit into the Democratic front-runner, claiming Clinton and her husband had been living "at the intersection of money and politics, trading their political influence to enrich their personal finances." The unsuccessful 2012 Republican nominee added, "A person so untrustworthy and dishonest as Hillary Clinton must not become president."

I've heard the same from ordinary voters in the early primary states. Even many Democrats — those who support Bernie Sanders — consider Clinton dishonest; many Republicans, especially religious ones, consider Trump an untrustworthy hustler. According to a recent YouGov poll, among all the candidates still in the race, Trump and Clinton are thought of as the least honest.

In a 2014 book titled "Candidate Character Traits in Presidential Elections," political scientists David Holian and Charles Prysby of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro analyzed data on previous elections from the American National Election Studies to see how important various aspects of a candidate's character were in presidential races. Every election year, different traits came to the fore: Leadership, experience, caring. Integrity — how honest and moral candidates appeared — also played a role, Holian and Prysby wrote:

"Voters prefer a candidate who does not misrepresent facts, who does not bend the truth, and who is not deceptive in his or her statements. Candidates who are perceived as deficient in this area generally suffer; those who can portray themselves positively tend to gain. Gore in 2000, for example, was not helped by perceptions that he exaggerated, made false claims, and stretched the truth for his political benefit. In 1976, the first presidential election after the Watergate scandals, Carter emphasized that he would bring honesty to the White House; voter confidence that he would do so undoubtedly contributed to his narrow election victory."

The researchers' own calculations show, however, that the candidate who is seen as more honest, (or less dishonest) than his or her rival doesn't tend to win.

In 1988, George H.W. Bush prevailed over Michael Dukakis, though more people considered the latter honest; in 1996, Bill Clinton, the candidate with the lowest "honesty rating" in recent history, beat Bob Dole; in 2000, George W. Bush beat John Kerry despite being seen as less honest; and Barack Obama triumphed over John McCain despite being seen as somewhat less honest.

Data from the American National Election Studies isn't directly comparable to the various 2016 polls that show how little Americans trust Clinton and Trump. One thing is clear, though: If they win their parties' nominations, they will be the first pair of candidates at least since the 1980s whom more voters consider dishonest than honest. That the least trusted politicians stand the best chance of winning is one of the more bizarre quirks of this strange elections, and it's hard to understand or accept. Are Americans willing to hand their country to people from whom they clearly wouldn't buy a used car?

It's almost as if American voters express their distrust of the system — everywhere I went, both Republicans and Democrats said it was broken — by picking the people who best match its untrustworthiness. Trump's voters expect him to outsmart the system, and Clinton's expect her to work it cleverly.

It's easy, however, to understand Romney: Cynicism is unattractive and a bad foundation on which to build a country's future. In most of the recent elections, according to the Holian-Prysby research, the more inspiring candidate won. This time around, America may end up with politicians selected for their perceived cunning. It would be dispiriting if this were what America thought of itself.

Donald Trump has a point about American decline

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may send him email at nsmith150@bloomberg.net.

American decline is a popular narrative these days. It's a central feature of Donald Trump's presidential campaign — you can't "make America great again" unless America isn't-so-great right now. Although Trump often seems disconnected from reality, on this issue he has a point. The U.S. is in decline. Fortunately, the slide isn't severe, and there's probably time to arrest its progress or prevent it from accelerating.

When we say a nation is in decline that can mean several things. Historically, it meant a fall in living standards and the level of economic development. When the Roman Empire declined, the population of Rome shrank, roads crumbled and the empire's ships disappeared from the ocean. Eventually the European continent fell back into poverty and violence among regional and city-state powers. The same thing happened to China after the fall of the Han Dynasty, and again after the fall of the Qing Dynasty.

Nothing of the kind threatens the U.S. today. Yet it is true that the economic well-being of the average American — defined as median household income — has fallen since the turn of the century.

That's bad news, obviously, although much of that effect is due to shrinking household size and an influx of low-skilled immigrants. When you adjust for those factors, median income is probably little changed rather than falling. And during that time, technological improvements have made life more enjoyable and leisure more rewarding. We have smartphones and social media now. Our houses are much larger, and most of us are living longer.

So the true standard of living in the U.S. is still going up, it's just doing so at a very slow rate. The U.S. isn't about to turn into Rome or the Qing Dynasty. Manhattan won't become overgrown with weeds, and travelers from distant lands won't come to gawk at the ruins of the White House.

But there are other senses in which a nation can decline. For example, it can slip in power, wealth and prestige relative to other countries. In this sense, the U.S. has clearly declined.

The U.S.'s main rivals in the past — Europe, Japan and Russia — are weaker than they used to be. But this isn't a good thing. With the exception of Russia, those countries — the other rich democracies — are the U.S.'s main allies in the world. It's pretty bad to feel proud of your health because all your friends got sick.

The U.S.'s main competitor, in military and diplomatic terms, is China. And China has gone from being a small fraction of the U.S. economy a few decades ago to being the biggest economy on the planet. Though its gross domestic product is still less than the U.S.'s when measured at market exchange rates, in terms of purchasing power parity — which takes local prices into account — it is now the biggest, and the gap is widening. China's takeoff represents a dramatic shift of global power. With its economic rise will come military and diplomatic influence, reducing U.S. supremacy even more.

There is also a third way in which a nation can be in decline — stagnation. In this sense, the U.S. is also in decline, and has been since about 2000.

After 2000, the rate of formation of high-growth startups fell a lot — the U.S. economy became less dynamic. Around halfway through that decade, total factor productivity growth — the ultimate driver of improvements in living standards — also decelerated substantially from its earlier growth rate.

It was about 2000 that U.S. incomes flatlined as well.

Economists argue a lot about the reasons for these negative trends — there is no consensus so far. But it's clear by now that the turn of the century was also a turning point for the U.S. If "decline" means stagnation, then the U.S. has been in decline for roughly 15 years.

So the narrative of decline being pushed by Donald Trump — and echoed by many other presidential candidates — is real. So far, the decline isn't too serious. Living standards haven't begun to fall outright, and other indicators of social well-being, such as crime, have declined (though other indicators, such as suicide, have risen). It isn't yet time for panic, but the U.S. should be looking at ways to arrest its decline before it becomes more serious.

What can be done to make America great again? That's the slogan of Trump's campaign, but his mix of grandstanding, self-promotion, media provocation and unworkable policy plans is highly unlikely to have any sort of positive effect. Instead, more serious leaders need to think about more serious policies.

One of the simplest and most obvious steps would be more high-skilled immigration. Switching to a Canada-style points-based immigration system, increasing the total number of immigrants, and giving out green cards instead of H-1B visas would do a lot to boost the skills of the U.S. workforce. Since most immigrants are young, it would also prevent disruption to the economy from the aging of the population and ease the strain on programs like Social Security. It would also increase the population, while encouraging domestic investment to serve an expanding U.S. market. More population would boost total GDP, which would mitigate the U.S. size disadvantage relative to China.

Other changes could include reforming the financial system, promoting greater investment, spending more on education, research, and infrastructure, improving regulation and the tax code, and remaking urban policy to allow higher density, more transit and better public services. The U.S. may not be able to reverse its decline, but there are steps that can halt it before it gets worse.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nancy's legacy

The recent passing of former First Lady Nancy Davis Reagan brings to mind some of the positive attributes of the Reagan era of the 1980s.

The Reagan era was one where the United States turned a corner and moved toward shedding the negative aftertaste of a Vietnam conflict that introduced returning military personnel to an angry and sometimes hostile America. The Reagan era was one characterized by healthier relations with the Soviet Union, which led to the end of the Cold War.

Mrs. Reagan also defined what constituted the Reagan era because she established the anti-drug campaign of "Just Say No" to counter the heavy LSD drug culture and recreational drug use environment rampant throughout the country. It was Nancy Reagan who attempted to bring more decorum to the White House that was started by Mrs. Kennedy and it was Nancy Reagan who led efforts to raise money for people with Alzheimer's disease and breast cancer. It was also Nancy Reagan who proved that entering into and maintaining a strong marriage was not an impossibility.

As clips of Nancy Reagan's life play side-by-side with daily Trump-isms and the unprecedented negativity of the current GOP presidential election cycle, it makes me wonder just what direction the United States is moving toward and just how divorced the GOP has become from the era of the "great communicator" and his First Lady.

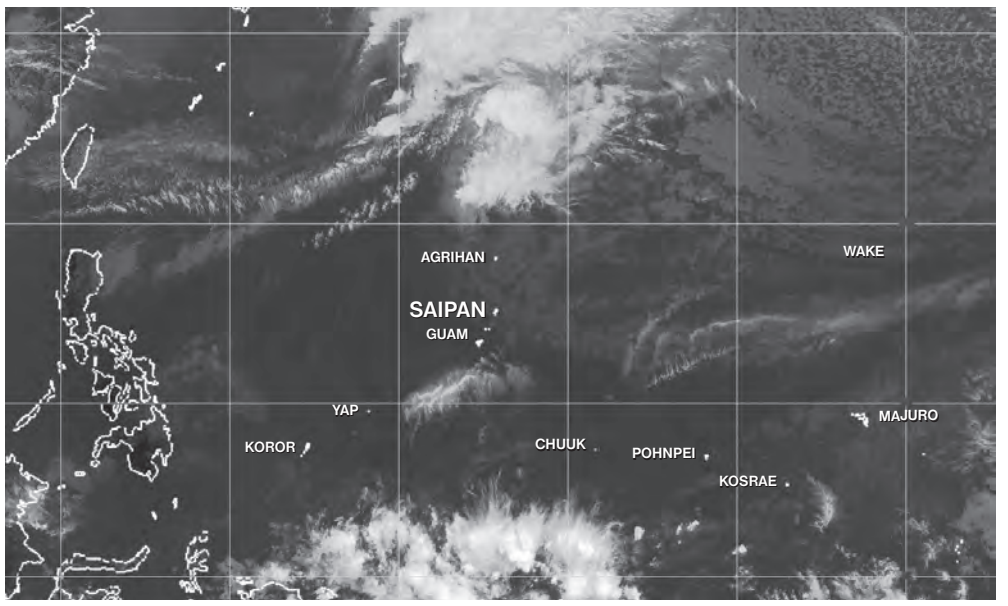
Jesse Perez
Via email

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲84º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:45 PM, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low pressure is south of Tokyo and east of Okinawa with a cold front extending southwestward from 25N140E to beyond 19N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are along and up to 120 miles northwest of the front. Converging east to southeast winds are causing extensive cloudiness with scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of 20N from 142E to 151E. Extensive cloudiness is also north of 20N roughly from 151E to 180. A shear line curves southeastward from 20N142E across the Mariana Islands near Rota to 13N148E then runs eastward to 12N160E and northeastward to beyond 19N180. Cloudiness and scattered showers are along and up to 200 miles northeast of the shear line from 142E to 148E then 150 miles north of the shear line from 148E to 170E and 100 miles northwest of the shear line from 170E to 180. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror, Yap and Chuuk or south of a line from 2N134E to 4N141E to 2N152E. Also, scattered showers are in patchy areas between Kosrae, Kwajalein and Majuro between 5N and 10N from 163E to 171E. A trade-wind disturbance near the date line is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro or east of a line from 9N178E to 4N177E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲82	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲46	▼22
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲71	▼65
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼69
London	Showers	▲47	▼44
Los Angeles	Rain	▲60	▼47
Manila	Sunny	▲94	▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲99	▼76
Miami	Cloudy	▲75	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲60	▼46
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼48
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼40
Pusan	Cloudy	▲54	▼36
Rome	Showers	▲57	▼44
Salem	Thundershowers	▲53	▼37
San Francisco	Thundershowers	▲58	▼47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼27
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼47

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:01 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
7:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
6:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:31 AM	5:38 PM
Wednesday	6:21 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	7:11 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	8:01 AM	8:40 PM
Saturday	8:52 AM	9:41 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

China looks to ramp up Internet growth, and its controls

BEIJING (AP)—China's government has highlighted big data, encryption technology and "core technologies" such as semiconductors as the key elements of its push to grow into a tech powerhouse, according to a new five-year plan released Saturday that envisages the Internet as a major source of growth as well as a potential risk.

Even as it highlighted the need to improve Internet infrastructure to rural areas and unlock the digital economy's potential, Chinese economic planners called for a more secure and better managed Web, with enhanced Internet control systems, Internet security laws and real-name registration policies.

Chinese officials including Internet czar Lu Wei have played down concerns over what critics have described as China's expanding Web censorship, saying that it is the Chinese government's sovereign prerogative and a necessary measure to maintain domestic order.

China's development plan calls for a better cybersecurity approval system and more "precise" Web management to "clean up illegal and bad information."

The plan also calls for a multilateral, democratic, transparent and international governance system and active participation in international Internet governance efforts.

AP

Delegates read the work report delivered by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the opening session of the annual National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Premier Li Keqiang highlighted the promise of the Internet, saying Saturday that various traditional sectors, ranging from manufacturing to government to health care, need to connect to the Web and raise their efficiency as part of an overarching national strategy called "Internet Plus." He vowed to raise research and technology spending to account for 2.5 percent of gross domestic product in the five years through 2020, which he said would mark a "remarkable achievement."

The five-year plan calls for all families in large cities to have access to 100 megabyte-per-second Internet service and broadband coverage reaching 98 percent of the population in incorporated villages.

At the same time, Chinese leaders, wary of over-relying on foreign technology, will seek to boost China's homegrown industry and cut down on imports—a strategy that has drawn complaints from trade partners like the United States.

Inventor of modern email, Ray Tomlinson, dies

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Raymond Tomlinson, the inventor of modern email and a technological leader, died Saturday.

Raytheon Co., his employer, confirmed his death; the details were not immediately available.

Email existed in a limited capacity before Tomlinson in that electronic messages could be shared amid multiple people within a limited framework. But until his invention in 1971 of the first network person-to-person email, there was no way to send something to a specific person at a specific address. Tomlinson wrote and sent the first email on the ARPANET system, a computer network that was created for the U.S. government that is considered a precursor to the Internet. Tomlinson also contributed to the network's development, among numerous other pioneering technologies in the programing world.

At the time, few people had personal computers. The popularity of personal email wouldn't take off until years later and would ultimately become an integral part of modern life.

"It wasn't an assignment at all, he was just fooling around; he was looking for something to do with ARPANET," Raytheon spokeswoman Joyce Kuzman said. The first email was sent between two machines that were side-by-side. Tomlinson said in a company interview that the test messages were "entirely forgettable and I have, therefore, forgotten them." But when he was satisfied that the program seemed to work, he announced it via his own invention by sending a message to co-workers explaining how to use it.

"I'm often asked 'Did I know what I was doing?" Tomlinson said in his speech when he was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame. "The answer is: Yeah I knew exactly what I was doing. I just had no notion whatsoever about what the ultimate impact would be."

Tomlinson is the one who chose the "@" symbol to connect the username with the destination address and it has now become a cultural icon.

"It is a symbol that probably would have gone away if not for email," Kuzman said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Gas prices jump by 7 cents over past 2 weeks, to $1.84

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of gasoline has jumped by 7 cents over the past two weeks, to $1.84 a gallon. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that despite the increase, the price is 70 cents per gallon cheaper than a year ago. Lundberg says the moderate price hike is due to growing demand for gasoline across the nation and higher crude oil prices. In the Lower 48 states, the highest average price of regular gasoline was $2.51 per gallon in Los Angeles. The lowest was $1.33 in Tucson, Arizona. The U.S. average diesel price is $2.07 per gallon, down less than a cent from two weeks ago and down 96 cents per gallon from what it was a year ago.

United Continental CEO Munoz returns after medical leave

United Continental says its President and CEO Oscar Munoz will return to his roles at the airline full-time later this month. Munoz took medical leave after suffering a heart attack in October, just six weeks after replacing Jeff Smisek as CEO. He then had a heart transplant in January. General Counsel Brett Hart took over as interim CEO but Munoz began easing back into work recently. The airline said Sunday that Munoz has already been participating actively in all major corporate decisions and meeting frequently with employees, shareholders, and other stakeholders during his recovery. He will return to his duties on a full-time basis March 14. Chicago-based United Continental Holdings Inc. is the nation's third-biggest airline by traffic, trailing American and Delta.

How to manage your former peer

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Two months ago, after my manager moved to another department, I was chosen to replace him. Three of my four co-workers welcomed this decision, saying they always assumed I would be his successor. The fourth one, "Ron," also applied for the position and was clearly not happy with the outcome.

When I asked my former boss for advice about starting this new job, he suggested meeting with employees individually to discuss the change and then having a planning session with the entire team. This approach worked well with everyone except Ron, who avoids talking to me and never speaks in staff meetings.

Ron and I previously had a good relationship, but losing this position has obviously upset him. Although this is understandable, I'm concerned that his negative attitude will drag down team morale. How long should I give Ron to accept the situation?

A: First of all, kudos to you for seeking out and following your boss's sound advice. Because managing former peers is always tricky, discussing the transition is extremely important. As for your pouting staff member, two months is more than long enough to get his feelings in check, so it's time to address the issue.

While you don't want to chastise Ron or threaten him, you must clearly convey that this sulky behavior has to change. He should also understand that if he hopes to be promoted, he may be shooting himself in the foot.

For example: "Ron, I know you're disappointed about the management job, which is perfectly understandable. However, your unhappiness is obvious to everyone, which is not helpful for our team. It may also reduce your chances of getting future promotions. We've worked well together before, so I'm hoping we can continue to do so. What are your thoughts about this?"

If Ron responds favorably to this gentle reminder, then your problem is solved. But if his obstinacy continues, consider asking your manager to have a word with him. Involving the boss is always a last resort, but sometimes a little more firepower helps to get the message across.

Q: After applying for 60 jobs, my husband still hasn't gotten any interviews. The problem is that these positions require certifications that must be sponsored by an employer. Because of his extensive experience and training, he could easily become certified within six months, but stating this on his resume hasn't helped. How can he get past this obstacle?

A: Your question raises two red flags. First, based on the 60 applications, I wonder whether trolling the Internet has become your hubby's primary job search strategy. While there's nothing wrong with applying online, these postings are so accessible that competition is steep and results are often limited. A better approach would be to network with contacts from his "extensive experience and training" who may know about useful job leads.

The second concern is his assumption that certifications are the problem. If numerous employers provided this feedback, that might be a reasonable conclusion. However, the most common barrier to getting interviews is an inadequate resume, so having an objective expert review that document would not be a bad idea.

Nation

Some Republicans see Cruz as best alternative to Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican leaders on Sunday grappled with the prospect that the best hope for stopping Donald Trump's march to the nomination may be Ted Cruz—the only candidate who causes as much heartburn among party elites as the billionaire businessman, if not sometimes more.

The Texas senator split contests with Trump in Saturday's voting, bolstering his argument that only he can defeat the real estate mogul. Trump and Cruz are now significantly outpacing Marco Rubio in the delegate count, further shrinking the Florida senator's already narrow path to the nomination.

If Rubio's slide continues, he would be the latest establishment candidate to fall victim to an angry, frustrated electorate that cares little about endorsements from party leaders or newspaper editorial boards. Rubio has rolled out both at warp speed in recent weeks, but his appeal with Republican voters is not keeping pace.

Rubio did pick up a victory Sunday in Puerto Rico's primary, his second win of the 2016 cycle. Democrats, meanwhile, held caucuses Sunday in Maine. Sanders won that contest, beating rival Hillary Clinton for his eighth win of the 19 contests already held in the nomination process.

Also, Democrats were debating debate Sunday night in Flint, Michigan, highlighting differences on economic policy.

The Democratic candidates were facing off just two days before Michigan's primary in a city that was already in tough shape long before residents learned their drinking water was tainted with lead.

Clinton, a former secretary of state and senator, claims that only she has a "credible strategy" for raising wages. In recent days, she has laid out a plan for a "clawback" of tax benefits for companies that ship jobs overseas, using the money to encourage investment in the United States.

AP
Republican candidate for president Sen. Ted Cruz greets supporters before speaking at a rally on the campus of Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Sanders wrote in Sunday's Detroit Free Press that his rival had supported "disastrous trade deals" such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and normalized trade relations with China that have resulted in thousands of job losses that devastated cities such as Detroit and Flint.

Sanders won Democratic contests on Saturday in Kansas and Nebraska, but Clinton's overwhelming victory in Louisiana enabled her to add to her commanding lead in delegates to the party's national nominating convention.

With 25 Maine delegates at stake, Sanders is assured of winning at least 14 while Clinton stands to gain at least six. But his victory won't have much impact on Clinton's substantial edge overall, thanks to her support among superdelegates—members of Congress, governors and party officials who can support the candidate of their choice.

When including those party leaders, Clinton has at least 1,129 while Sanders has at least 498. It takes 2,383 delegates to win.

In the Republican race, the wary interest in Cruz from more mainstream Republicans is the latest unexpected twist in a nominating contest where talk of a contested convention or third-party candidate is becoming commonplace.

Heavy rain leads to evacuations, rescues in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A woman died in Northern California after being trapped in a car that became submerged in floodwater on a section of highway that was closed amid heavy rain, authorities said Sunday.

The casualty was reported after a storm that rolled across California on Saturday led to the evacuations and rescues in some low lying areas, where thousands of people lost power after powerful winds toppled trees and power lines.

Chia Xiong, 51, of Marysville, was underwater for about 15 minutes Saturday night because it took divers some time to find the vehicle, which plunged into 6 to 8 feet of water, according to fire officials and the California Highway Patrol.

The driver, who was able to get out of the car, was arrested for investigation of driving under the influence and vehicular manslaughter, CHP Officer Jodie Beck said.

Officers who were at a road blockade saw Neng Yang, 55, of Sacramento go around the closure on State Route 70 in Olivehurst, about 35 miles north of Sacramento, and enter the floodwater, Beck said.

Firefighters rescued four people stranded along the Los Angeles River in the Encino area while in Santa Cruz County people living along Soquel Creek and the Upper San Lorenzo River were evacuated because of rising water.

A second winter storm reached the northernmost part of the state Sunday and was expected to spread across California overnight, indicating that March will not be as parched as it was last month. Forecasters warned of strong winds, heavy snow in the mountains and dangerous breaking waves along the coast.

California is not the only place experiencing severe weather. Conditions are especially ripe for tornadoes in the Southeast and Great Plains. Specifically, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky, southern Illinois, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina and parts of Virginia.

Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94 in California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president—and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer's disease—has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Associated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the "Just Say No" campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-the-scenes "dragon lady" wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration—and doing it based on astrology to boot.

Reagan

All along she maintained that her only mission was to back her "Ronnie" and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer's melted away her husband's memory. After his death in June 2004 she dedicated herself to tending his legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as governor.

She also championed Alzheimer's patients, raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell studies. Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles helped smooth over the public's fickle perceptions of the former first lady.

The Reagans' mutual devotion over 52 years of marriage was legendary. They were forever holding hands. She watched his political speeches with a look of such steady adoration it was dubbed "the gaze." He called her "Mommy," and penned a lifetime of gushing love notes. She saved these letters, published them as a book, and found them a comfort when he could no longer remember her.

States seek to stymie hiring suspected sex-predator teachers

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—It's called "passing the trash": A school suspects a teacher of sexual misconduct and forces the teacher out to protect the students. But that teacher can still get a new job in a new school, sometimes with a glowing recommendation.

Only Pennsylvania, Missouri and Oregon ban the maneuver, but a federal mandate passed in December now requires states to address its potential risks. Connecticut is considering such legislation.

One woman abused by such a teacher says it's about time the problem is getting attention.

She was 16 when her English teacher at the exclusive Marlborough School in Los Angeles began grooming her. He showered her with praise, gave her gifts and pitted her against her friends. Then there was a sexual advance, and sex. Eventually, she became pregnant and miscarried.

She reported him only years later, after she learned he had targeted another girl more recently. A lawsuit she filed says he was accused of misconduct at two schools before Marlborough hired him. When he was finally pushed out of Marlborough, the school gave him a recommendation, the suit asserts.

The woman, now 31, says it is infuriating that the man who abused her, Joseph Koetters, was able to "hit the reset button" and start fresh at a new school. Koetters pleaded guilty to sexually molesting her and another girl and was sentenced in October to a year behind bars.

"It's clear that not just in Marlborough but in all these cases nationwide, the schools lack the will or the moral compass to take these measures on their own," the woman said.

A judge last month denied the school's motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The school did not comment, citing the pending litigation.

The Associated Press does not identify victims of sexual abuse without their consent.

The woman's lawyer, David Ring, says it's a problem at public schools and private schools alike. He won a $5.6 million jury verdict in 2013 in the case of a public school teacher in California who sexually abused a 14-year-old girl. Even though the school knew the teacher had sent her romantic emails mid-year, he was allowed to finish the year and left the school with a letter of recommendation.

Asia

N. Korea again threatens nuke strikes on US, S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Monday issued its latest belligerent threat, warning of an indiscriminate "pre-emptive nuclear strike of justice" on Washington and Seoul, this time in reaction to the start of huge U.S.-South Korean military drills.

Such threats have been a staple of young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un since he took power after his dictator father's death in December 2011. But they spike especially when Washington and Seoul stage what they call annual defensive springtime war games. Pyongyang says the drills, which were set to start Monday and run through the end of April, are invasion rehearsals.

The North's powerful National Defense Commission threatened strikes against targets in the South, U.S. bases in the Pacific and the U.S. mainland, saying its enemies "are working with bloodshot eyes to infringe upon the dignity, sovereignty and vital rights" of North Korea.

"If we push the buttons to annihilate the enemies even right now, all bases of provocations will be reduced to seas in flames and ashes in a moment," the North's statement said.

A pre-emptive large-scale military strike that would end the authoritarian rule of the Kim dynasty is highly unlikely. There is also considerable outside debate about whether North Korea is even capable of the kind of "strikes" it threatens. The North makes progress with each new nuclear test—it staged its fourth in January—but many experts say its arsenal may consist only of still-crude nuclear bombs; there's uncertainty about whether they've mastered the miniaturization process needed to mount bombs on warheads and widespread doubt about whether they have a reliable long-range missile that could deliver such a bomb to the U.S. mainland.

But North Korea's bellicose rhetoric raises unease in Seoul and its U.S. ally, not least because of the huge number of troops and weaponry facing off along the world's most heavily armed border, which is an hour's drive from the South Korean capital of Seoul and its 10 million residents.

The rival Koreas' usual animosity occasionally erupts in bloody skirmishes—50 South Koreans were killed in attacks in 2010 that Seoul blames on the North—and there is always a worry about an escalation of violence.

Always ragged relations between North Korea and its rivals Seoul and Washington have worsened following North Korea's nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket test last month that outsiders say was a test of banned ballistic missile technology.

The United Nations recently slapped the North with harsh sanctions, and South Korea has taken a harder than usual line, with a new North Korean human rights law and the president in Seoul warning of a collapsed government in Pyongyang. South Korea says it will announce new unilateral sanctions Tuesday.

AP

South Korean Marines, wearing blue headbands on their helmets, and U.S. Marines move together during the annual joint military exercise Key Resolve and Foal Eagle by South Korea and the United States in Pohang, South Korea, Monday, March 7, 2016.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia leader calls on Muslim world to unite on Palestine

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's president on Monday urged a summit of Muslim nations to be part of the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict rather than part of the problem. President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, who heads the most populous Muslim nation, said the entire world is concerned by the deterioration of the situation in Palestine and criticized what he called Israel's "unilateral and illegal policies." Officials from 57 countries are meeting in the Indonesian capital Jakarta for a special summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation that is focused on Palestine and Jerusalem. The Middle East quartet and permanent members of the U.N. Security Council are also represented.

China says nearly 300,000 punished for corruption in 2015

BEIJING (AP)—China's ruling Communist Party said Sunday that it punished nearly 300,000 officials for corruption last year. The party's official watchdog body said that 200,000 of those were given light punishments and 82,000 handed severe penalties, including demotions within the bureaucracy. The body known as the Central Committee for Discipline Inspection rarely explains its methodology or what evidence it considers, and no other details were given in the brief statement posted on its website.

President Xi Jinping has pressed a massive nationwide probe of corruption among officials of all ranks, including those in the party, government, military and state-run industries.

Chinese woman dies in elevator with power improperly cut off

BEIJING (AP)—The discovery of a woman's corpse in an elevator in the Chinese city of Xi'an has led to the detention of an elevator maintenance crew who improperly cut off power to the elevator a month ago without checking if anyone was inside In a statement posted Saturday, the Gaoling district government said two maintenance workers turned off the power source on Jan. 30 to the elevator in a residential building after they were called to check on a glitch. When they returned a month later, on March 1, for repairs, they found a female corpse there, the government said. The woman was identified as a 43-year-old resident who was living by herself. Police ruled out any foul play but concluded her death was caused by the gross negligence on the part of the maintenance crew in a case of involuntary manslaughter, the government said.

Families of missing Flight 370 press for search to continue

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The families of those who were aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 appealed to authorities Sunday to continue searching for the plane, saying that one of aviation's great mysteries must not be left unsolved.

An ongoing search in the southern Indian Ocean has found no trace of the Boeing 777, which vanished two years ago with 239 people on board, though a wing part washed ashore on Reunion Island in the western Indian Ocean last July. The search is expected to end in June.

At a commemorative event Sunday to mark the second anniversary of the jet's March 8, 2014, disappearance, family members released white balloons tagged with the names of everyone aboard the plane and the words: "MH370: Always remembered in our hearts."

Jacquita Gomes, who lost her husband, inflight supervisor Patrick Gomes, when the plane disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, said the families are fighting for the search to continue "because our loved ones are not home yet, so how can we say it's the end?"

Gomes, standing on a stage at a shopping mall in a Kuala Lumpur suburb with more than two dozen relatives of passengers, said the families are united in fighting for the cause.

"I think we are done with all the sobbing and wailing. We do cry in silence. We have faces full of smiles, but behind the smiles, there is also sadness. ... We have not reached closure," she said.

Other family members paid tribute to their loved ones during the three-hour event, which included songs, poems and dances. A big backdrop on the stage showed a picture of a plane and read: "Search On 2.0. Re-investigate, re-evaluate, re-start. Never give up."

"We may never recover from this if it's classified as an aviation mystery and the case is then closed," the families said in a statement. "If this is left unsolved, then how will we prevent it from happening again?"

Authorities have said that the search will not be expanded in the absence of fresh clues.

Jiang Hui, a 41-year-old Chinese man, said his life has been in limbo since he lost his 62-year-old mother, Jiang Cui Yun, who was aboard the plane. He said he lost his job as an IT engineer a few months after the tragedy due to depression.

PH rebel warns IS may gain from autonomy delay

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The head of a Philippine Muslim rebel group warned Monday that the Islamic State group could gain from frustrations in the country's south following the failure of the Philippine Congress to pass an autonomy bill as part of a peace agreement.

Murad Ebrahim, chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said the militant IS group has attempted over the past year to recruit supporters in Mindanao but his group has worked to convince them that the peace pact signed with the government in 2014 was the best solution.

But he said the delay in enactment of the bill that aims to establish a more powerful and better-funded autonomous region for minority Muslims has led to frustrations that could be capitalized by the IS and other small hard-line rebel groups.

Malaysia is a facilitator in the peace talks, and Murad spoke while passing through Kuala Lumpur.

"There have been some efforts of penetration (by IS) but they have not succeeded in establishing a stronghold in Mindanao," he said during a news conference. "But now after the non-passage of the (bill), we are quite concerned that they can capitalize on this because the (frustration) of the people in the area is now very strong."

The 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberalization Front dropped its secessionist bid and settled for broader autonomy for minority Muslims in the south of the largely Roman Catholic nation in a Malaysian-brokered pact it signed with Manila in 2014. The conflict has left 150,000 people dead and stunted development in the country's poorest region.

Under the deal, a bill was submitted to Congress to create the autonomous region to be called Bangsamoro. The bill's early passage was stalled by anger over the killing last year of 44 police commandos in fighting that involved some fighters from the Moro group.

Lawmakers ended the last regular session of their term last month without passing the bill.

Murad said his group will not completely abandon its arm struggle but will not revert to violence as long as the peace process has a chance to move forward. He said he is hopeful that the new president, to be elected later this year, will support and continue the efforts for peace.

World

EU looks to refugee-laden Turkey to ease its migrant burden

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union leaders will be looking to boost aid to Greece as the Balkan migrant route is effectively sealed, using Monday's summit as an attempt to restore unity among the 28 member nations after months of increasing bickering and go-it-alone policies, according to a draft statement Sunday.

The leaders will also try to persuade Turkey's prime minister to slow the flow of migrants traveling to Europe and take back thousands who don't qualify for asylum.

In a draft summit statement produced Sunday and seen by The Associated Press, the EU leaders will conclude that "irregular flows of migrants along the Western Balkans route are coming to an end; this route is now closed." Because of this, the statement added that "the EU will stand by Greece in this difficult moment and will do its utmost to help manage the situation."

"This is a collective EU responsibility requiring fast and efficient mobilization," it said in a clear commitment to end the bickering. It said that aid to Greece should center on urgent humanitarian aid as well as managing its borders and making sure that migrants not in need of international protections are quickly returned to Turkey.

The statement will be assessed by the 28 leaders after they have met with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

Late Sunday evening, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Dutch Premier Mark Rutte met with Davutoglu to prepare for the summit.

At least 25 migrants drowned off the Turkish coast while trying to reach Greece on Sunday, Turkey's state-run news agency reported. The coast guard launched a search-and-rescue mission for other migrants believed to be missing in the disaster.

Ankara is central to easing Europe's refugee pressures. More than 2,000 people arrive daily from Turkey to Greece, where many have been stranded as countries on the main migrant route through the Balkans are aiming to stop them moving north.

The bloc has offered several sweeteners to get Turkish authorities to crack down on migrant movements. Some 3 billion euros ($3.3 billion) will be made available for Syrian refugees. Turkey's long-coveted EU membership process is being sped up, as are moves to ease EU visa requirements. Summit meetings like these are also part of the package.

Ahead of the summit, the European Commission trumpeted the availability of tens of millions of euros to help Syrian school children and provide food aid. It said that a new "road map" on visa liberalization for Turkey had also been submitted.

However, Turkey has a huge migrant challenge of its own, as host to more than 2 million people who fled the conflict in Syria, and the returns on the European investments have been limited so far. Many complain that still far too many people cross the Aegean Sea from Turkey to Greece, adding to the 850,000 people who entered Greece that way last year.

The United Nations' refugee agency called on Friday for 400,000 Syrians in Turkey to be resettled around the world to ease the country's burden. So far it remains to be seen if any countries are willing to offer their assistance. Only 7,500 people were resettled in 2015.

After regular calls for Ankara to do more, the Commission announced on Tuesday that Greece was finally in the process of returning 308 migrants not in need of international protection to Turkey.

NATO is helping too. The alliance announced Sunday that it was expanding its mission to help choke off the smuggling of migrants into Europe by deploying warships in Greek and Turkish waters, reinforcing its flotilla and deepening cooperation with the EU's Frontex border agency.

SIDEBAR

25 migrants drown off Turkey, few allowed into Macedonia

IDOMENI, Greece (AP)—At least 25 people drowned off the Turkish coast while trying to reach Greece on Sunday, while Macedonian authorities imposed further restrictions on refugees trying to cross the Greek border.

The Turkish coast guard launched a search-and-rescue mission for other migrants believed to be missing from the accident, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported, and rescued 15 off the Aegean Sea resort of Didim, it added.

The dead included three children, according to private Dogan news agency.

Meanwhile, Greek police officials said Macedonian authorities are only allowing those from cities they consider to be affected by war to cross the Idomeni border crossing from Greece. That means people from cities such as Aleppo in Syria, for example, can enter, but those from the Syrian capital of Damascus or the Iraqi capital of Baghdad are being stopped.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak on the record.

A U.N. refugee agency official in Macedonia confirmed the new restrictions, and criticized the decision.

"This is not all right," said Ljubinka Brasnarska, UNHCR senior external relations assistant in Macedonia, told the AP. "Everybody from Syria who came needs international protection. This decision could be taken only by other competent international bodies, not by border authorities," she said, adding she couldn't explain the latest move.

Macedonian police said the checks and profiling of refugees wanting to cross "are carried out by mixed teams of police officers from all countries of the (Balkan) route."

"Iraq and Syria are considered unsafe countries, but if one of the countries on the route introduces new restrictions (we) will be forced to consider the possibility to (apply) them also on the Macedonian-Greek border, including the ban on the entry of migrants from certain areas," police said in a statement.

Suicide attack kills at least 47 south of Iraqi capital

HILLAH, Iraq (AP)—A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden fuel truck into a security checkpoint south of Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least 47 people and wounding dozens, officials said.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing in an online statement circulated by supporters.

It was the third massive bombing in and around Baghdad in a little over a week, and appeared to be part of a campaign by IS to stage attacks deep behind front lines in order to wreak havoc and force the government to overextend its forces.

Crowds gathered at the scene, picking through rubble and twisted car parts in search of survivors. Smoke rose from smoldering cars that had been lined up at the main checkpoint at the northern entrance to the city of Hillah, located about 95 kilometers (60 miles) south of Baghdad.

"The blast has completely destroyed the checkpoint and its buildings," Falah al-Khafaji, a senior security official in Hillah, said as he stood at the edge of the blast site. "More than 100 cars have been damaged."

IS has carried out scores of suicide bombings against security forces and the country's Shiite majority. Hillah is in the country's mainly Shiite south, far from the front lines of the war against IS.

Among the dead were 39 civilians, while the rest were members of the security forces. The attacker struck shortly after noon when the checkpoint was crowded with dozens of cars, a police officer said. He added that up to 65 other people were wounded.

A medical official confirmed the causality figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

Iraq has seen a spike in violence in the past month, with suicide attacks claimed by IS killing more than 170 people. The attacks follow a string of advances by Iraqi forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes, including in the western city of Ramadi, which was declared fully "liberated" by Iraqi and U.S.-led coalition officials last month.

Such attacks "force the government and the militias to look back and reallocate resources and reassess," said Bill Roggio, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, referring to the mainly Shiite militias fighting alongside government forces.

Cuban entrepreneurs quietly build network of private schools

HAVANA (AP)—"This is a conversation between two children," Graciela Lage Delgado tells a rapt class of third-graders, tightly enunciating each English word from a textbook called "Welcome to America."

"Is it a TV?" Lage asks in a girl's voice, pointing to an illustration of a boxy silver robot.

"No, it's not!" the kids shout back in English. "It's a robot!"

The kids in Lage's class wear sweat shirts and jeans, not the neat maroon uniforms of Cuba's public schools. Their classroom has an air conditioner and a computer with speakers for watching videos, unimaginable in a state school. And unlike most Cubans their age, the children can hold simple conversations in English, thanks to fast-moving, profound change in an important pillar of Cuba's six-decade-old socialist system.

Cuba touts its free, public kindergarten-to-post-grad schools as one of the jewels of its revolution, a force for social equality that virtually wiped out illiteracy across the island and gave even the poorest citizens a shot at educations often superior to wealthier countries'. As the government has allowed an explosion of private businesses ranging from restaurants to car washes, the school system, like health care, has remained under state control. Private schools remain illegal except for children of diplomats and foreign business people. Even the Catholic Church cannot open parochial schools.

Yet against the odds, Cuba's blooming entrepreneurial system has quietly created something that looks much like a private education sector, with thousands of students across Cuba enrolled in dozens of afterschool and weekend foreign language and art schools. The schools are entirely legal because they function as cooperatives of licensed private language teachers, one of the hundreds of new categories of self-employment authorized under Cuba's economic reforms.

For upper- and middle-class parents, the schools are filling gaps in subjects such as English, dance, painting, music and theater—invaluable in a country where artists and tourism industry workers can feed their families far more easily than the average state employee. English is also vital for Cubans migrating to the United States, their numbers nearly doubled since the two countries declared detente in late 2014.

The economic reforms of the last five years have created a large class of private entrepreneurs with lifestyles most Cubans can only dream of. That class has been flooded with cash from a 17 percent surge in the number of tourist visits and a wave of private investment from Cuban emigres launched after detente was announced.

The special schools mean the children of the privileged are increasingly getting a leg up, threatening to root inequality deeper and more broadly in a society where it isn't supposed to exist at all.

Focus

Nancy Reagan

remembered for her forceful, private style

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Unlike other presidential wives, Nancy Reagan didn't testify before Congress about health care, celebrate controversial Supreme Court decisions or sit in on Cabinet meetings.

"She never emerged as a political player in her own right. Nor did she seek to," says historian David Greenberg, the author of "Republic of Spin: An Inside History of the American Presidency."

"On the other hand, neither did she confine herself to the domestic sphere. And by taking an active role in her husband's business, she helped to reconcile conservatism to the reality of women's changing roles. Her views may have been conservative, but her political involvement implied that it wasn't improper for women to participate in what conservatives considered the man's sphere."

Reagan, who died Sunday at 94, wasn't out to break the rules of being first lady. But she knew well how to work within them. Ronald Reagan had promised to champion conservative values when elected in 1980, and Nancy Reagan was in some ways a throwback to a more old-fashioned approach. Her immediate predecessor, Rosalynn Carter, had attended Cabinet meetings. Betty Ford had spoken candidly about gun control, premarital sex and her surgery for breast cancer and praised the ruling of Roe v. Wade, when the Supreme Court declared a constitutional right to abortion, as "the best thing in the world." In the 1990s, Hillary Clinton would try (and fail) to overhaul the country's health care system.

Nancy Reagan's most public issue was more in line with expectations for first ladies: her "Just Say No" to drugs campaign, which she launched after a schoolgirl asked what to do if someone offered her drugs. The effectiveness of "Just Say No" remains in dispute, but it became a catchphrase (and punchline) for the 1980s and part of an effort that included drug-free zones and "zero tolerance" policies in schools. Reagan herself gave speeches and even made a cameo appearance on the NBC sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes."

Reagan had other causes and in her post-Washington years openly broke with conservatives by advocating (and allying herself with the liberal Sen. Edward Kennedy) for embryonic stem cell research for Alzheimer's, the disease which afflicted her husband. But while first lady, she stated most of her opinions in private. Often in tandem with such White House moderates as Chief of Staff James Baker and longtime adviser Michael Deaver, she favored better relations with the Soviet Union, opposed high military spending and urged the president to speak openly about AIDS.

Her prevailing ambition was to help her husband, and she did so in uncommonly forceful style.

"Ronald Reagan was a striver, but his striving was masked by his courteous, amiable manner and enduring fatalism," biographer Lou Cannon wrote in "President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime." ''Hers (Nancy's) was out in the open, all cards on the table, for anyone to see. With a directness unusual either in Hollywood or Washington, Nancy Reagan favored anyone who helped her husband or advanced his career and opposed anyone who was in his way. She put people off, while he put them at their ease."

Nancy Reagan acknowledged the limits of her influence. In her memoir, "My Turn," she wrote of her husband that "he often seems remote, and he doesn't let anybody get too close. There's a wall around him." Sometimes, she added, "even I feel that barrier." In his book, Cannon noted that the president ignored her advice on military spending and resisted her and many others before agreeing to fire Baker's unpopular successor as chief of staff, Donald Regan.

Reagan biographer Edmund Morris, who spent three years around the Reagans while he was president, was dismissive of Nancy's political influence. But he did cite her importance to him personally, as someone who managed his finances and other everyday details, and as a "street fighter" who protected her husband from "predators." He likened her to Edith Roosevelt, wife of Theodore Roosevelt.

"Both Reagan and TR tended to like everybody and were easily taken advantage of," Morris says. "And both of these women, Nancy and Edith, were good at keeping away these conniving, predatory people, whether they were office seekers or lobbyists."

Greenberg says Nancy Reagan wasn't "ideologically driven," like many of his aides.

"For that reason, she should get credit, with James Baker and Michael Deaver, for helping him to avoid some of the pitfalls that a consistently hard-right presidency would have encountered," Greenberg says. "Her protectiveness served him well overall."

AP

In this Jan. 20, 1981, file photo, President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan wave to onlookers at the Capitol building as they stand at the podium in Washington following the swearing in ceremony. The former first lady has died at 94, The Associated Press confirmed Sunday, March 6, 2016.

Vignettes from Nancy Reagan's life

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Those who worked with former US President Ronald Reagan say Nancy Reagan was intelligent and loyal to her husband.

As first lady, Mrs. Reagan was a trusted adviser and held backstage power in the Reagan administration, which began in 1981.

After the presidency, she was a caregiver during Reagan's battle with Alzheimer's and a protector of his legacy after his death.

Mrs. Reagan died Sunday in Los Angeles. She was 94.

Here's a look at the personal side of Mrs. Reagan:

FIERCE INTELLIGENCE

Martin Anderson, domestic policy adviser in Reagan's 1980 campaign and his first term in the White House, wrote in his book, "Revolution":

"Nancy Reagan was an important and active participant in virtually all the important discussions that took place during the campaign. She was highly intelligent, with a sixth sense for asking insightful, penetrating questions. Above all, her judgments on public policy issues, political strategy, and personnel were superb ... Reagan recognized a good mind when he encountered one, and he consulted her constantly on just about everything. On the other hand, he would never hesitate to overrule her counsel, although he seldom did so because she was usually right."

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE

Political scientist Richard Neustadt in his book "Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents:"

"The aide in charge of warning him (Reagan) when threats appeared against his public standing or historical appeal ... that special staff role, of immense importance to someone habitually incurious about detail, had been assigned his wife. More precisely, she had made it hers since Sacramento."

"But when it came to people, her reported targets seem well chosen, aim unerring and timing right for someone who must wait for someone else to pull the trigger."

ASKING QUESTIONS

James Kuhn, Reagan's second-term executive assistant, credited Nancy Reagan with much of her husband's success but said she was hard to please and "could ask questions that there were no answers to."

For example, she would demand details of the weather in whatever place the Reagans were going, Kuhn said in an interview made as part of a University of Virginia oral history project on the Reagan years.

"And she'd say: 'Rain. Why is it raining? Why is it raining in Cleveland?'" Kuhn related.

"I'd say, 'Well, I guess there's a low pressure system that came in.'

"'Well, why?'

"I'd think, 'Oh, God, I'm getting in deeper here.'"

UNFORGETTABLE MEETING

Nancy Reagan recounted one of the lighter moments of White House life at a 1994 George Washington University gathering on the role of first ladies.

It happened, she said, at a meeting "with this lady who we were trying to convince to do something for the White House."

"I had on a blouse and a wraparound skirt. And she got up to leave, and I got up to shake hands with her. ... The skirt is down at my ankles and I'm standing there in my pantyhose and my blouse," she recalled to gales of laughter.

"I don't know whether we ever got the money from the lady, but I said to her, 'I'm sure this is a meeting you're never going to forget.'"

COPING WITH ALZHEIMER'S

By 1999, Nancy Reagan had been trying to cope with her husband's Alzheimer's diagnosis for five years, and she was asked in a C-Span interview what she had learned.

"That it is probably the worst disease you can ever have," she replied. "Because you lose contact and you're not able to share. In our case, to share all of those wonderful memories that we have."

Asked what she did when her husband didn't recognize visitors, she replied: "Well, now we don't have visitors ... we never let that happen."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2016 Range Rover makes the case for diesel

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

MCT
The 2016 Range Rover makes the case for diesel.

"Which office do I go to to get my reputation back?" former Secretary of Labor Raymond Donovan famously asked in 1987, when he was acquitted of corruption on a New York City subway contract.

Automakers trying to sell diesel engines in 2016 might ask the same question. Since we learned in September that Volkswagen broke U.S. environmental laws to sell hundreds of thousands of polluting engines here, headlines about diesels tend to include words like "scandal" and "cheat."

Hardly the desired image for companies that had promoted diesels as clean and efficient alternatives to hybrids. The newest to face that challenge is Jaguar Land Rover, which recently began selling its first diesel here.

The 2016 Land Rover Range Rover HSE Td6 luxury SUV (I give it three out of four stars) is a good start. The Rover's 3.0-liter V-6 showcases diesel's strengths: fuel economy and power.

The Range Rover Td6 competes with high-end luxury SUVs. It easily surpasses the fuel economy of gasoline-powered models and beats most competing diesels. "Td6" denotes a six-cylinder turbodiesel. The Range Rover's 3.0-liter V-6 produces 254 horsepower and 443 pound-feet of torque.

Prices for the Range Rover Td6 start at $86,450, a $1,500 premium over the base Range Rover, which comes with a 3.0-liter supercharged gasoline V-6 that produces 330 horsepower and 332 pound-feet. All Range Rovers come with all-wheel drive and an eight-speed automatic transmission.

The Td6's Environmental Protection Agency fuel-economy rating of 22 mpg in the city, 29 mpg on the highway and 25 mpg combined beats the gasoline engine by an impressive 5 mpg in the city, and 6 mpg on the highway and combined. The diesel will save an average owner $500 a year at current fuel costs, according to estimates from the Environmental Protection Agency.

That means the engine pays for itself in just three years, but Range Rover owners won't be sweating the cost. The well-equipped HSE I tested stickered at $105,680. It came with features like a leather-wrapped dash, adaptive cruise control, 20-inch alloy wheels, panoramic sunroof, 825-watt Meridian audio, navigation, 7,716-pound towing capacity, street sign recognition and more. All prices exclude destination charges.

Until VW, Audi and Porsche are allowed to sell diesels in the U.S. again, the only competing five-passenger diesel luxury SUVs are the BMW X5 xDrive 35d, Jeep Grand Cherokee diesel and Mercedes GLE 300d. The Rover has the highest torque and towing capacity. The Range Rover HSE Td6's price is at the high end of the segment.

Only the X5 diesel beats the Range Rover Td6's EPA rating, checking in at 1 mpg higher in city, highway and combined driving, a $50 a year savings, according to the EPA.

The Rover's interior is comfortable and accommodating. The SUV's boxy styling leads to plenty of head room, a feeling that was augmented in my test car by a sun

The controls for transmission and AWD are easy to use, but the touch screen and flat panel controls for audio, climate and navigation do not respond as quickly as leading systems.

The voice recognition system also trails the best competitors, such as the Jeep Grand Cherokee.

The diesel delivers plenty of power for strong acceleration around town and on the highway. Unlike the BMW X5 and Mercedes GLE, the Range Rover's chassis and AWD system were engineered for extreme off-road conditions.

The Range Rover Td6 on its own won't redeem diesel's reputation, but it's a start.

Looking on the bright side, when people hear "Ray Donovan" today, they think of Liev Schreiber's dashing TV anti-hero, not the Reagan cabinet member who beat an indictment a generation ago.

Time and good behavior equal forgiveness, or at least, forgetfulness. Diesels have been around for 120 years. As long as they power appealing vehicles like the Range Rover Td6, they'll be around for a few more.

NUTS & BOLTS

Behind the Wheel

- 2016 Land Rover Range Rover HSE Td6
- All-wheel-drive five-passenger luxury SUV
- Price as tested: $105,680 (excluding destination charge)
- Rating: Three out of four stars

Reasons to buy: Fuel economy, luxury, off-road ability

- Shortcomings: Controls, voice recognition
- Competitive EPA fuel-economy ratings

(Automatic transmission all-wheel-drive models)

- Land Rover Range Rover HSE Td6: 22 mpg city/29 highway/25 combined. Diesel

BMW X5 xDrive 35d: 23/30/26. Diesel

Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit 3.0-liter: 2{8/24. Diesel

Mercedes GLE 300d: 22/29/24. Diesel

- Source: www.fueleconomy.gov

Comparative base prices (excluding destination charges)

(Automatic transmission all-wheel-drive models)

Land Rover Range Rover HSE Td6: $93,450

BMW X5 xDrive 35d: $57,700

Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit 3.0-liter: $57,595

Mercedes GLE 300d: $52,500

- Source: Autotrader
- Specifications as tested
- Engine: 3.0-liter 24-valve turbocharged V-6
- Power: 254 horsepower; 443 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: 8-speed automatic
- Wheelbase: 115.1 inches
- Length: 196.8 inches
- Width: 78.1 inches
- Height: 72.3 inches
- Curb Weight: 4,918 pounds
- Where assembled: Solihull, England

Key features on vehicle tested

- Standard equipment: Antilock brakes; stability control; electronic brake force distribution; cornering brake control; emergency brake assist; hill-descent control; trailer stability control; hill start assist; rear-view camera; rain-sensing windshield wipers; curtain air bags; front seat belt pre-tensioners; 20-in alloy wheels; auto stop/start; push-button start; power windows, mirrors and locks; power front seats; heated and cooled front seats; heated rear seats; three zone automatic climate control; SiriusXM satellite radio; touch-screen navigation; Bluetooth phone and music compatible; voice recognition; power tail gate, and front and rear parking sensors
- Options: Terrain Response 2 AWD system; auto dimming exterior mirrors; mood lighting; surround camera system; blind-spot and cross-traffic alert; automatic high beams; xenon adaptive headlights; land-departure warning with traffic sign recognition; active parking assist; head up display; towing package; rear seat entertainment; Meridian 825w audio; power sun

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS: Let your diagnostic system lead you

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a 2010 Toyota Camry and have been getting the check-engine alert along with the traction-control sign. I took my car to my trusted mechanic twice, and he could not locate the problem or determine why this is happening. He used a diagnostic tool and found a trouble code of P0303 but was unsure why. I drove the car two days and the alert sign was gone. But now it popped up again. Do you know why this is happening? I will appreciate your valuable advice.

--Vijay Pendse

A: Vijay, great job supplying the details needed to unravel this puzzle! The diagnostic trouble code you mentioned is stored when the Camry's third cylinder misfires more frequently than the allowable threshold. You didn't mention any engine roughness, so this seems to be of very slight severity or maybe it occurs only under rare circumstances. The traction control warning is a side effect, as the traction system will stand down should an engine performance issue exist.

One of the very cool things about the Camry's diagnostics system is that, with some detective work and a good scan tool, a close look at the misfire history can reveal the severity and conditions present at the time of this incident. Knowing that perhaps the third cylinder misfired seven times per 200 revolutions, at a particular speed, load and temperature really helps to validate the fault and the correction.

Causes for this particular code can be many, including a faulty spark plug or ignition coil, dirty or sticky fuel injector, intake manifold vacuum leak, cylinder compression fault, or an intermittent glitch in either the coil or injector circuitry, among others. It's also possible a fault affecting overall engine performance is developing and that the third cylinder is the first of the siblings to be affected.

Don't worry, a common cause is the spark plug or ignition coil, and they're easy to contend with. I'd start by renewing all four spark plugs, using the Toyota specified brand and part number. Next, either test or swap the third cylinder coil pack with an adjacent cylinder. Testing is done by removing the coil (takes about 30 seconds), wrapping it in aluminum foil, installing a spark tester, clipping the tool to engine metal, with the foil touching a metal engine part, and briefly starting the engine. If spark jumps the tool, the coil is proven good. If not, remove the foil and try again. If it now works, this tells us spark was leaking to ground via the foil, through a fault in the coil's plastic insulation or plug boot. If spark still doesn't jump the tool, the coil has an internal fault.

Another, somewhat easier method is to swap the coil with that of another cylinder, clear the code, and see if perhaps a P0302 or P0304 code comes up after driving. If the code follows the coil, it's defective! This would require only a simple code reader. These tools are now incredibly inexpensive, about $20-$25. Better ones also include emissions monitor (system readiness) status, and code definitions. A scan tool at around $100 and up goes much further, displaying operating data and additional functions.

Life & Style

Remembering Nancy Reagan's brief Hollywood career

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Before Nancy Reagan became a fixture in the national consciousness and on home television sets, the late first lady also shared the big screen with the likes of Barbara Stanwyck, Ava Gardner, Glenn Ford and Ray Milland in her short career as a Hollywood actress in the post-war era.

After a few years on Broadway, Reagan, then Nancy Davis, moved to California and signed a seven-year contract with Metro Goldwyn Mayer, leading to roles in 11 features—her last of which was the 1958 feature "Crash Landing," a middling Fred F. Sears drama about a pilot (Gary Merrill) reflecting on his troubled marriage (to Reagan's character) in the midst of an engine crisis over the Atlantic.

She was never the biggest star, but she had her moments in a wide variety of genres from noir to melodrama, often as loving and supportive wives and girlfriends.

THE DOCTOR AND THE GIRL (1949)

Nancy Reagan's first big screen role was in director Curtis Bernhardt's drama about a wealthy doctor (Glenn Ford) who defies his family's wishes by opening a practice in a poorer neighborhood. Reagan played the main character's sister Mariette, who is engaged to a class-lusting physician (played by Warner Anderson).

EAST SIDE, WEST SIDE (1950)

In this Mervyn LeRoy-directed melodrama about a married couple torn apart by the husband's infidelities, Reagan played Helen Lee, a socialite and best friend to Barbara Stanwyck's wronged wife. James Mason played Stanwyck's philandering husband, one of whose consorts was Ava Gardner. "The ladies all wear expensive garments and the gentlemen drink expensive booze. But that still doesn't elevate the effort above the level of hopeful pretense," wrote New York Times critic Bosley Crowther in his review.

SHADOW ON THE WALL (1950)

After a run of playing mostly wives and girlfriends, Reagan got a particularly meaty and serious role in this Pat Jackson-directed psychological crime thriller about a 6-year-old girl (Gigi Perreau) who loses her memory after witnessing the murder of her stepmother. Reagan played a doctor who endeavors to help cure the girl and makes some critical discoveries about the nature of the murder along the way.

The New York Times said Reagan gave a "beautiful and convincing" performance.

AP

In this May 14, 1984, file photo, Michael Jackson, center, stands with President Ronald Reagan, left, and first lady Nancy Reagan on the south lawn of the White House prior to receiving an award from the president for his contribution to the drunk driving awareness program.

THE NEXT VOICE YOU HEAR ... (1950)

When God starts giving radio broadcasts in this odd little William A. Wellman film, a married couple (James Whitmore and Nancy Reagan) and their 11-year-old son living in suburban Los Angeles are forced to confront their own faith. Reagan was praised for her "delightful" performance as the kind, gentle and very pregnant wife in the film.

NIGHT INTO MORNING (1951)

Reagan plays a widow who saves Ray Milland from his depression and drunkenness after his wife and child die tragically in a fire. Milland and Reagan were both applauded for their performances, but the melancholy story was seen as a bit of a letdown.

HELLCATS OF THE NAVY (1957)

This WWII-set film about a submarine commander charting minefields off the Japanese coast marks the only time Ronald Reagan and Nancy Reagan, already married for five years, shared the big screen. As the land-locked love interest, Nancy Reagan didn't have much to do besides fret though. It's far from a classic—in fact it's somewhat derided—but the film remains an interesting document of historical value just by nature of the fact that it features the future President and first lady.

Celebrities urge world leaders to fight for girls and women

AP

In this Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014, file photo, actor, talk show host and philanthropist Oprah Winfrey addresses an audience after accepting the W.E.B. Du Bois medal during ceremonies, on the campus of Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass.

NEW YORK (AP)—A number of high-profile entertainers—including Oprah Winfrey, Mary J. Blige, Charlize Theron and Meryl Streep—have signed an open letter calling on world leaders to fight for gender equality across the globe.

The letter released Sunday states that some 62 million girls around the world are denied the right to education, 500 million women can't read and 155 countries have laws that discriminate against women.

"Nowhere on earth do women have as many opportunities as men. Nowhere," the letter states. "The fight for gender equality is global."

Signers also include Tina Fey, Robert Redford, Shonda Rhimes, Ashley Judd, Amy Poehler, Colin Farrell, Danai Gurira, Connie Britton, Elton John, Patricia Arquette, Muhammed Ali, Sheryl Sandberg and Sean Parker. The push is organized by the ONE Campaign, co-founded by Irish rocker Bono to end extreme poverty and disease.

"We still living in a time period where the most impoverished and disadvantaged people in the world are, without question, women and girls," said Gurira, the playwright of the Broadway show "Eclipsed," in an interview. "The light and the potential of women and girls in the world today is being blocked."

The letter comes a few days before International Women's Day, which is Tuesday. It calls on leaders to help girls and women fight HIV and malnutrition and support female economic empowerment.

Gurira, who also plays a sword-wielding zombie assassin on AMC's "The Walking Dead," has long been an advocate for women and will travel to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress on Tuesday.

"Enough is enough. We have to close this gap, and we have to make a concerted, focused effort and that requires speaking directly to the global leaders who have the power to make change," Gurira said. "It's an extension of myself to fight for and, as much as I can, give voice to those who are in systems of oppression based on their gender."

An accompanying report called "Poverty Is Sexist 2016" reads: "In too many countries, being born poor and female means a life sentence of inequality, oppression and poverty—and in too many cases also a death sentence."

Last year, Streep and singers Beyonce and Lady Gaga signed an open letter saying empowering women was the key to fighting the world's inequalities and poverty.

With Heartfelt Gratitude
We, the family of the late
Delfina C. Babauta
Lovingly known as "Del"
would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to
all our relatives and friends for your thoughtful prayers, comforting words,
kind deeds and most especially for your presence at the gathering
and services for our beloved.
Your most comforting expression of sympathy has deeply touched us
and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.
Thank you very much & Si Yu'us Ma'ase'.
The Family

Austrian conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt dies at 86

VIENNA (AP)—Nikolaus Harnoncourt stepped down from the podium last year in the same manner that characterized his work as one of the world's famous conductors. With style, but without fanfare.

"Dear public," he wrote Dec. 5. "My physical strength orders me to cancel my future plans." Describing the synergy between him and the audience as leading to an "unusually deep relationship," he said his goodbyes in eight lines in an open letter, simply, elegantly and without pathos.

Harnoncourt died Saturday night of an undisclosed illness, in the village of St. Georgen in Attergau, west of Salzburg, less than three months after taking his last bow. He was 86.

His wife, Alice Harnoncourt, didn't specify the cause, saying only her husband "passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family."

Born into a lineage that included some of Europe's most aristocratic families, Harnoncourt was also part of Austria's musical nobility, with mastery that put him on the level of other great postwar Austrian conductors Herbert von Karajan, Karl Boehm and Carlos Kleiber.

His concern for historical detail was legendary. He often distributed his own material to orchestras, adding expression marks on how to create more authentic or refined interpretations, aiming to erase what he called "traditionally traded" mistakes. Adding in period instruments as well as tempi and dynamics discarded by modern performances, Harnoncourt broke through in the 1970s from relative obscurity with a series of celebrated performances, particularly of Monteverdi and Mozart.

AP

In this Jan. 1, 2003 file picture Nikolaus Harnoncourt conducts the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra during the traditional New Year's concert at the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria.

He thought of his conducting as alive and romantic, not a relic of history.

"I have always hated the word 'authenticity' because it is so dangerous," Harnoncourt said. "'Museum music' does not interest me. I have no intention of organizing guided tours to visit Louis XIV or Johann Sebastian Bach."

He later expanded his repertoire to include 19th-century opera favorites such as Verdi's "Aida"—but didn't stop there. His individually accented interpretations, including composers as diverse as Beethoven and Richard Strauss already led Switzerland's Neue Zuercher Zeitung newspaper in 1999 to call him "the protagonist of the new expressionism."

His 2001 Grammy Award for a recording of Bach's St. Matthew Passion was only one of dozens of honors reflecting his musical standing.

Harnoncourt believed art was the foil to modern society's materialism, which he saw as a threat to Europe's cultural values. As a boy, he acquired his knowledge of sacral music at the cathedral in his home city of Graz, Austria.

"We as musicians—indeed all artists—have to administer a powerful, a holy language," Harnoncourt said in a speech for the Mozart Year of 1991, two centuries after the Austrian wunderkind's death. "We have to do everything in our power to keep it from getting lost in the maelstrom of materialism."

His last few years at the podium were marred by occasional cancellations because of failing health. Still, he was able to finish projects such as Jacques Offenbach's "Barbe-bleue" and Henry Purcell's "Fairy Queen" at his Styriarte music festival, in his home city.

His last public appearance was in January, through a video recording—and the message was typically Harnoncourt.

"I wish you not a nice evening but a stirring one," he told the audience at the 10th anniversary celebration of the relaunch Vienna's "Theater an der Wien" from a musical stage to an opera house.

Famed classical musicians and Austrian political leaders expressed their dismay. President Heinz Fischer said Harnoncourt's death "means an irreplaceable loss for the musical life of Austria and internationally.

Harnoncourt was born in Berlin on Dec. 6, 1929. His father, Eberhard, belonged to the house of the Count de la Fontaine und d'Harnoncourt-Unverzagt of Luxembourg-Lorraine, and his mother, Duchess Meran and Baroness of Brandhofen, was a great-grandchild of Archduke Johann of Styria.

The family moved later to Graz, in the southern Austrian state of Styria, where Harnoncourt became an accomplished cello player. Also drawn as an adolescent to puppet theater, Harnoncourt ultimately chose music as his profession after hearing a radio recording of Beethoven's 7th Symphony under German conductor Wilhelm Furtwaengler.

He went to Vienna in 1948 to study and four years later started as a cellist with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under chief conductor Karajan—a job he would keep until 1969.

But the young Harnoncourt already was experimenting with older sounds, having forged a group in 1949 with his future wife, Alice Hoffelner, and others for performances with period instruments.

In 1953, he founded the Concentus Musicus Wien as a platform for his work on Renaissance and baroque music, using period instruments—many of which he had to buy at his own expense—to counteract "stultifying, aesthetically sanitized music-making."

"For musical instruments, we were willing to do almost anything," Harnoncourt wrote of his life in the 1950s, when money was scarce.

Early performances were mostly private and critics were initially hostile, commenting on the lack of brilliance in the musical sound and on the shortcomings of the older wind instruments.

But the troupe's reputation grew, especially after a recording of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos in 1962. The repertoire expanded into Monteverdi works. First tours of the U.S. and England came in 1966, and of Germany two years later.

Leaving his cello behind, Harnoncourt made his debut at the conductor's rostrum in 1972 with Monteverdi's "Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria" at the Piccola Scala in Milan.

A few years later, his breakthrough was complete after teaming with French director Jean-Pierre Ponelle on a celebrated cycle of Monteverdi operas performed at the Zurich Opera House on period instruments, starting with "L'Orfeo" in 1976.

In the 1980s, Harnoncourt performed a series of Mozart operas—from "Don Giovanni" to the less regularly performed "Lucio Silla" and "Mitridate re di Ponto"—that were equally popular and critically acclaimed.

In 1989, he completed an 18-year project to record the complete cycle of Bach cantatas with the Concentus Musicus Wien and conducted orchestras in Berlin, London, Vienna and other places around the world. He also recorded all nine Beethoven symphonies with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

While he became a regular in the 1990s at the Vienna State Opera and the Salzburg Festival, Harnoncourt remained selective, rejecting a position with a "renowned orchestra so as not to be constrained in his artistic development and freedom," according to a biography on the website of the Styriarte Festival.

Despite often exhausting schedules or rehearsal and performances, Harnoncourt also found time to teach as a professor at the Salzburg Mozarteum from 1972 to 1993.

Funeral arrangements weren't immediately announced.

Lady Gaga and Al Roker take Polar Plunge in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—Lady Gaga and Al Roker are among the celebrities jumping into frigid Lake Michigan waters at a fundraiser for the Special Olympics.

It's the singer's second time participating in Chicago's Polar Plunge. NBC "Today" show personality Roker, Lady Gaga and her fiance, "Chicago Fire" actor Taylor Kinney, took the plunge Sunday with stars from other television shows.

Chicago aldermen also participated.

The event has gotten a celebrity boost recently. Last year, Vince Vaughn took the plunge. In 2014, comedian Jimmy Fallon jumped in wearing a suit and tie.

The weather on Sunday was warmer than years past. The National Weather Service says the air temperature was about 40 degrees during the plunge.

AP

Lady Gaga, center, and her fiance "Chicago Fire" star Taylor Kinney, center left, joke with members of the show and stars from other television shows during Chicago's Polar Plunge on Sunday, March 6, 2016, at North Avenue Beach in Chicago.

'Zootopia,' 'London Has Fallen' dethrone 'Deadpool'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Deadpool's" three-week reign atop the box office has ended thanks to a handful of new openers, including "Zootopia" and "London Has Fallen."

The top spot went to Disney's "Zootopia" which staged a box office stampede in its first weekend in North American theaters with $73.7 million, according to comScore estimates Sunday. It's the fourth highest March opening ever and a best for a Disney Animation three-day debut.

The studio's previous record-holder, "Frozen," grossed $67.4 million over three days in its Thanksgiving opening.

Critics and audiences love the film, which features the voices of Jason Bateman and Ginnifer Goodwin. It got a coveted A CinemaScore and a near-perfect Rotten Tomatoes score. According to exit polls, families made up 73 percent of opening weekend audiences.

Dave Hollis, Disney's Executive Vice President of Distribution, said "Zootopia" is the latest in a "creative renaissance" for the Disney Animation group, including "Tangled," ''Frozen," ''Big Hero 6" and "Wreck-It Ralph."

"There is consistency at a really high level of delivering great stories, amazing worlds and characters who people can relate to," Hollis said, noting that "Zootopia" is the only true all-audience film in the marketplace until Disney's "The Jungle Book" bows on April 15.

This image released by Disney shows a scene from the animated film, "Zootopia." AP

"Zootopia" also brought in $63.4 million internationally, where it is in its fourth weekend. The film has grossed $232.5 million globally to date.

In second place, "London Has Fallen," a sequel to the "Die Hard" in the White House pic "Olympus Has Fallen," earned $21.7 million. The main cast returned for the film, including Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart and Morgan Freeman, which cost a reported $60 million to make.

While it's a decent debut, it does lag behind the first film's $30 million opening. But it's a welcome change of pace for Butler, whose "Gods of Egypt" bombed in its opening last weekend.

In its fourth weekend in theaters, "Deadpool" fell to third place with $16.4 million, bringing its domestic total to a staggering $311.2 million.

The Tina Fey comedy "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot," meanwhile, debuted in fourth with an estimated $7.6 million. The film cost a reported $35 million to produce.

The movie, which finds Fey's journalist character on assignment in Afghanistan, has garnered mixed to positive reviews from critics. According to exit polls, audiences were 56 percent female and 89 percent over 25.

Fey's last film, "Sisters," was budgeted at $30 million. It opened to $13.9 million against "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and went on to earn $87 million domestically.

"It's a great weekend," said comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "And it's another better-than-expected debut in a time of year that doesn't usually breed great opening weekends."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **"Zootopia,"** $73.7 million *($63.4 million international).*
2. **"London Has Fallen,"** $21.7 million *($12 million international).*
3. **"Deadpool,"** $16.4 million *($21.2 million international).*
4. **"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot,"** $7.6 million.
5. **"Gods of Egypt,"** $5 million *($15.7 million international).*
6. **"Risen,"** $3.9 million."
7. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** $3.5 million *($3.1 million international).*
8. **"The Revenant,"** $3.3 million *($12.5 million international).*
9. **"Eddie The Eagle,"** $3.1 million.
10. **"The Witch,"** $2.5 million *($590,000 international).*

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **"Ip Man 3,"** $75 million.
2. **"Zootopia,"** $63.4 million.
3. **"Deadpool,"** $21.2 million.
4. **"Gods of Egypt,"** $15.7 million.
5. **"The Revenant,"** $12.5 million.
6. **"London Has Fallen,"** $12 million.
7. **"Mei Ren Yu (The Mermaid),"** $10.5 million.
8. **"Hail, Caesar!,"** $5 million.
9. **"Spotlight,"** $4.7 million.
10. **"How to Be Single" and "Homecoming,"** $4.5 million.

Lady Mary an ex-con? After 'Downton,' stars seek challenges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—What's happening to certain "Downton Abbey" stars is downright criminal.

Joanne Froggatt, the TV drama's vulnerable Anna Bates, is morphing into a 19th-century serial killer in PBS' "Dark Angel." Michelle Dockery, who plays coolly elegant Lady Mary, is a sleazy American ex-convict in TNT's "Good Behavior." And Kevin Doyle, the good-hearted Mr. Molesley, is a bad-hearted police detective in Netflix's "Happy Valley."

The end of "Downton Abbey" on PBS' "Masterpiece" after six seasons means new career paths for its stars, with both the upstairs and downstairs crew embracing change-of-pace roles—although devoted viewers may want to enshrine them forever as their beloved characters.

"Anybody who's watched and loved 'Downton' is going to remember these characters for the rest of their lives," said executive producer Gareth Neame. But cast members "can't put a pin in their career and say that's it."

British actors are especially keen on variety and like "to move away from things they've been previously successful with," Neame said.

Froggatt said change is part of acting's allure.

"After playing a role that you've loved playing for years, there is a certain part of you that goes, 'I fancy doing something a bit different," she said.

That's the path taken by Dan Stevens, who's avoided lord-of-the-manor roles since playing Matthew Crawley in the drama's first three seasons. Among his upcoming projects: the films "Beauty and the Beast" and sci-fi drama "Colossal," and "Legion," a Marvel Comics-based TV pilot for FX.

After Sunday's "Downton Abbey" finale (9 p.m. EST), here's where to find its former gentry and servants:

■ Hugh Bonneville (Lord Grantham): Possibly the actor staying closest to his "Downton" pedigree, he plays Lord Louis Mountbatten in the Indian independence movie "Viceroy's House."

■ Laura Carmichael (Lady Edith): Takes on a sibling role again in the 1940s history-based romance, "A United Kingdom," introducing her sister to her future husband, an African prince.

■ Brendan Coyle (John Bates): Plays English politician Augustine Birrell in the historical Irish film drama "The Rising." Also in the romantic movie "Me Before You," based on the novel by Jojo Moyes.

■ Elizabeth McGovern (Lady Cora): Writing and recording her fourth album with the band Sadie and the Hotheads. In April, starting rehearsals at the National Theatre in London for "Sunset at the Villa Thalia."

■ Lilly James (Lady Rose): Takes on a classic part, Elizabeth Bennet, in an adaptation of the non-classic parody of Jane Austen's novel, "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies." In "The Kaiser's Last Kiss," a German soldier falls in love with James' Jewish Dutchwoman.

■ Allen Leech (Tom Branson): In the film "Hunter's Prayer," based on Kevin Wignall's novel "For the Dogs," Leech plays the former boss of a hired assassin whose assignment goes awry.

■ Penelope Wilton (Isobel Crawley): As lonely wife Pauline in the upcoming British TV series "Brief Encounters," set in the 1980s, Wilton is one of four women whose lives are changed when they start selling exotic lingerie at house parties.

Couple sharing household should share expenses too

DEAR ABBY: I need some relationship advice. How do you handle household expenses with a partner?

My boyfriend and I have been in a relationship for 10 years. In all this time, he has never once split any of the expenses with me. I pay for everything. He does buy groceries, although not all of them. He also helps around the house and with my daughter.

If I bring up the issue of sharing expenses, it turns into a fight. He says he's "sorry" he doesn't make enough money. Then he says all that matters to me is money and threatens to move out.

I feel completely taken advantage of because he DOES have the money to make $300-plus monthly payments for his new boat that's sitting in my garage. To me it's all about priorities. I would like a new car, but I have other monthly bills to pay.

Is it just me, or is this unfair?

UP TO HERE WITH IT IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR UP TO HERE: It's not just you. You have been carrying the lion's share of the load. But unless you are finally ready to insist upon a new arrangement with this man—who has had it pretty good for the last 10 YEARS—nothing will change.

It's time to ask yourself whether what he does contribute—on every level—is enough to satisfy you. If it isn't, be prepared to tell him you need to find an equal partner, and if he's unwilling to be that person, he should move.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Four years ago I had major affection for a man. We talked every chance we could. We arranged times we could sit together and just talk. There was lots of flirting, eye contact, and this overwhelming feeling of bliss—butterflies in the stomach—all of that.

The problem was he was married. Once I realized it, I was devastated because I understood what I wanted could never be. I feel so lost. I'm now considering going to counseling.

I still hear from others that he mentions me or says he misses me, but this is old news. Now there's someone else, and it's the same problem—just a different setting.

I feel so guilty for crushing on unattainable men. What's wrong with me? Why can't I like someone who is available? I've liked guys my own age before, and ones who were single, but there's something exciting about older unavailable men.

I don't want to feel this way, but I know that when I try to fight these feelings they just become stronger. I won't act on them, but I wish I could change them. How can I?

FEELING GUILTY IN OHIO

DEAR FEELING GUILTY: The quickest way to do that would be to talk about these feelings with a licensed mental health professional. When you do, be prepared to touch on all of your relationships with men, including your father—who is usually the first "unattainable" man with whom a little girl falls in love. I am pretty sure you will find that conversation illuminating.

Once you understand your feelings, it may be easier for you to find a man who is truly available—if a relationship beyond a mad flirtation is what you really want, that is.

■■■

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DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OH NO, I LOST MY QUARTER!
WHERE DID YOU LOSE IT?
IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS FIELD.
WE'LL NEVER FIND IT. YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL THE SNOW MELTS.
TILL THE SNOW MELTS? IT'S 25 CENTS!!
ZZZZZZZ

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

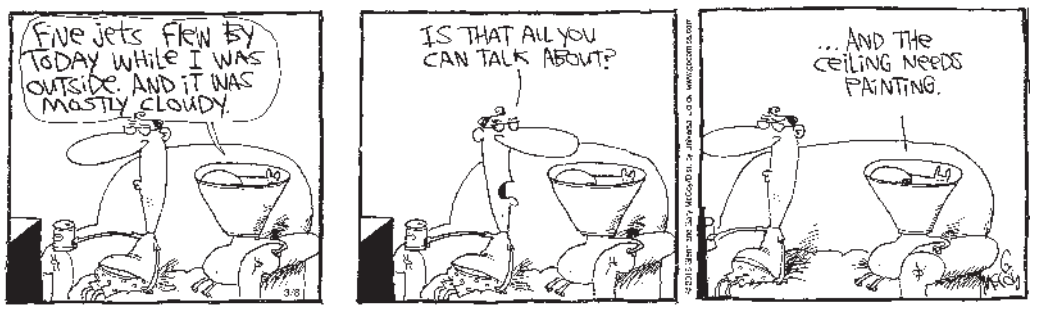
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY, GUMBO. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE WORKOUT MIX?
ANY PARTICULAR ALBUM THAT GETS YOU PUMPED?
SERIOUSLY?
"TITO PUENTE'S GREATEST HITS" IS MY FAVORITE, TOO! WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


Five jets flew by today while I was outside. And it was mostly cloudy.
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN TALK ABOUT?
...AND THE CEILING NEEDS PAINTING.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

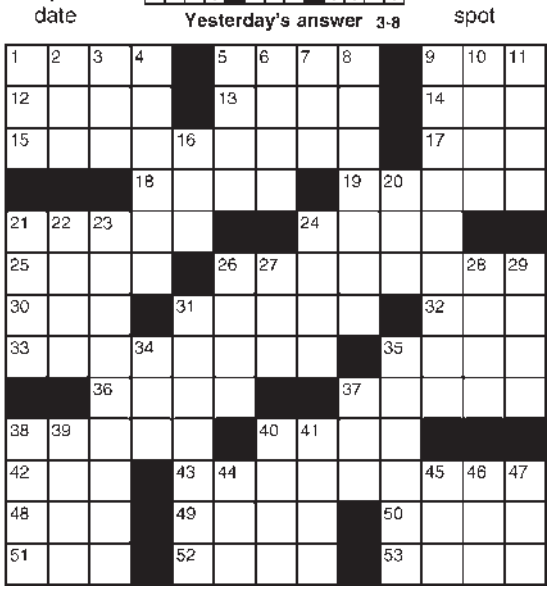
ACROSS
1 Genesis name
5 Lacked originality
9 Trail the pack
12 Chic beach resort
13 Quite enthusiastic
14 "— Believer"
15 Ultimate satisfaction, in a way
17 Haze
18 James — Jones
19 Welsh veggies
21 Tennis exchange
24 "To — a Mockingbird"
25 Raw minerals
26 Louvre lady
30 — -Mex cuisine
31 Nitwits
32 Up-to-date
33 Muse of heroic poetry
35 Bell sound
36 Cold War initials
37 Emcees
38 Funny fellow
40 Manhandle
42 Fire sign?
43 Proverbial ship sinkers
48 Ultramodernist
49 Now, in a memo
50 Actress Falco
51 Mess up
52 Longings
53 Part of N.B.

DOWN
1 100 percent
2 24 horas
3 Billboards
4 Highway stopovers
5 Petri dish gel
6 Anka or Newman
7 Nest occupier
8 Showy flowers
9 Palm marks
10 Out of control
11 Pranks
16 Nonclerical
20 Right angle
21 Campus mil. group
22 Vicinity
23 Superman's foe
24 Patella site
26 Drop anchor
27 Antithesis (Abbr.)
28 Padded bicycle part
29 Piercing tools
31 Exhibit
34 Baton Rouge sch.
35 Allergy cause
37 Shade
38 Prop for Dr. House
39 Addict
40 Lament
41 Nile vipers
44 Sugar suffix
45 Altar affirmative
46 Deep hole
47 Yacht spot

Solution time: 22 mins.

P	E	A	S		L	A	S		R	O	L	L
C	A	L	A	M	A	R			F	R	I	E
T	R	A	I	I	M	I	X		I	A	M	A
			L	I	P		T	A	I		E	D
I	N	B	O	X		B	Y	T	E			
S	E	A	H		J	O	S	I	H	I	X	
M	A	I		D	I	G		N		R	M	S
	P	H	O	E	N	I	X		C	I	A	L
			L	A	K	E		B	O	S	S	Y
A	S	W	I	R	L		F	O	G			
L	I	C	V		A	V		A	T	R	I	X
A	G	E	E		D	I	S	R	A	E	L	I
I	N	K	S		Y	F	T		G	O	F	S

Yesterday's answer 3-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Van Der Beek, 39; Freddie Prinze Jr., 40; Boris Kodjoe, 43; Aidan Quinn, 57.

Happy Birthday: Aggressive behavior can work for you as long as you are compassionate and honest with the people you encounter. Your quick actions will help to keep you ahead of any competition you face. Let your intuition help you make wise choices and lead you to the destinations you feel the most drawn to. Your numbers are 2, 6, 14, 25, 31, 37, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Think of the consequences that might unfold before making a move. Uncertainty and impulsiveness will be costly. Realizing what you have to offer and honing your skills accordingly will enable you to excel. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Share ideas and concerns, and offer suggestions and hands-on help to someone you feel has something to contribute. Don't be reluctant to use your talents effectively and to the best of your ability. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't hold back. If you are reluctant to be honest about the way you see things, you will be accused of withholding information and scrutinized for doing so. Voice your opinions and make helpful suggestions. Avoid emotional arguments. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Make the changes at home that will encourage greater efficiency and make your life easier. Be willing to ignore someone's last-minute change rather than let it disrupt your plans. Your intuition will not let you down. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look for a new beginning. Start a project or sign up for a course that will help you move forward with your plans, and you won't be disappointed. A day trip or visiting a place you've never been before will be enlightening. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let your anxiety lead you down the wrong path. Settle any discrepancies you face and clear the air before you make a move that will influence your future. Put greater emphasis on self-improvement instead of trying to change others. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Question anything that leaves you feeling uncertain or appears to be inconsistent. Spend more time with the people who can offer you greater stability and equality. Do whatever it takes to feel more comfortable at home. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Believe in your abilities. Be forceful if it will help you get your projects off the ground. An intellectual collaboration will help you develop a good rapport with someone who can contribute to your success. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Honesty will help you get past a situation that is causing you grief. It may not be easy, but in the end, you will feel free to move forward without regret or hesitation. A personal change will help you avoid criticism. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Set goals that are within your reach. Being realistic will help you cut through any tension that is building up between you and those affected by your choices. If you offer incentives, you will face fewer complaints. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your life simple. Address issues as they arise and don't worry too much about the things you cannot change. Work with what you are given and make the most of what you've got, and the results will be better than anticipated. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Consider the partnerships and projects you left unfinished, and find a way to either put them to rest or turn them into something workable. Either way, you will be able to move forward with a clear conscience. Let your intuition guide you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, upbeat and unwavering. You can and will make a difference.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8				7				1
		5	9			8		
	4		8		6		5	
		1				3	4	
6								2
	2	7				9		
	8		4		7		9	
		4			2	7		
5				8				6

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	6	8	2	9	4	5	1
9	2	5	7	1	4	3	8	6
1	8	4	5	6	3	9	2	7
7	9	8	6	4	5	2	1	3
2	5	3	1	9	7	8	6	4
4	6	1	2	3	8	5	7	9
8	4	2	9	7	1	6	3	5
5	3	7	4	8	6	1	9	2
6	1	9	3	5	2	7	4	8

Difficulty Level ★ 3/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LET IT RIDE! **Solution: 7 letters**

B	L	E	C	U	D	E	R	O	T	T	E	B	S	Y
R	O	U	N	D	H	E	A	R	T	S	W	I	N	G
O	S	L	H	S	U	L	F	O	L	D	B	W	E	E
W	E	A	D	E	T	B	T	L	A	Y	O	R	E	T
A	D	V	A	N	T	A	G	E	S	D	D	O	U	A
S	P	I	H	C	I	T	L	U	E	M	A	G	Q	R
T	L	I	S	L	N	K	N	C	A	S	I	N	O	T
E	L	S	G	U	G	O	A	S	L	O	B	M	Y	S
B	U	D	N	B	B	F	S	F	S	N	E	T	E	T
E	P	R	I	S	S	P	A	Y	O	U	T	I	L	R
D	K	A	K	U	A	L	A	E	V	E	R	E	F	A
I	U	C	I	D	E	A	L	E	R	U	E	F	F	I
S	A	T	E	R	R	E	Y	A	L	P	K	R	U	G
J	E	S	S	D	S	P	R	E	A	D	O	O	H	H
D	N	A	H	A	C	E	S	I	A	R	P	F	S	T

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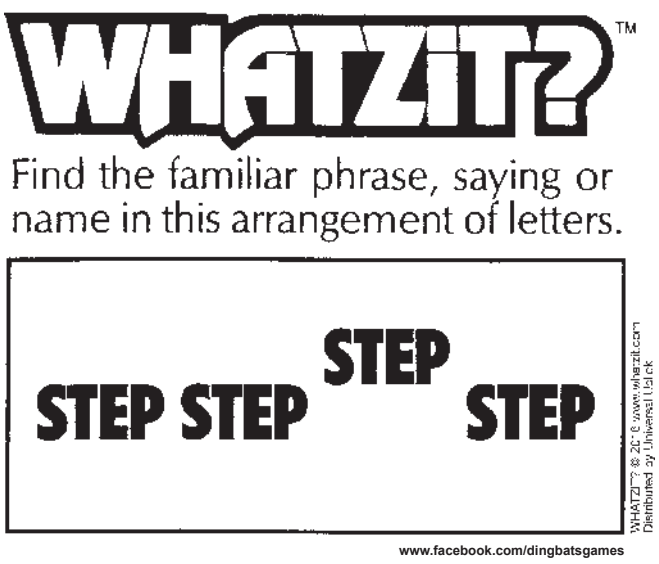
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Lakers stun Warriors for Golden State's 6th loss

AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, center, moves the ball while Los Angeles Lakers forward Brandon Bass, left, and guard Marcelo Huertas, right, defend during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, March 6, 2016. The Los Angeles Lakers won, 112-95.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even a team that dominates the way the Golden State Warriors have this season is bound to stumble every now and then.

They tossed out a clunker against the Los Angeles Lakers, losing 112-95 on Sunday while shooting a season-worst 13 percent from 3-point range.

"We got what we deserved," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "When the ball doesn't go in, you have to win with energy and defense and toughness, and we didn't have any of that."

The young Lakers did, led by Jordan Clarkson with 25 points and rookie D'Angelo Russell with 21. They handed the defending NBA champions just their sixth loss of the season, all on the road.

Kobe Bryant added 12 points in one of the biggest upsets in NBA history and the Lakers' most important victory in a downtrodden farewell season for Bryant, who spent the fourth quarter on the bench resting his aching right shoulder and mentoring his teammates.

"Kobe kept us on our toes," Russell said. "He was coaching us the whole game from the sideline. Telling us to push it when we got it, don't wait, and it worked."

Stephen Curry scored 18 points on a day the Warriors were awful offensively. Klay Thompson added 15 points, but the Splash Brothers were a combined 1 of 18 from 3-point range. In all, the league's best long-range shooting team missed 26 of 30 attempts, a season low for makes for a team that averages nearly 13.

"I would say 24 of them were good shots that just missed," Curry said. "It happens."

Golden State fell to 55-6 and the Lakers improved to 13-51.

Rockets 113, Raptors 107

In Toronto, James Harden had 40 points and 14 assists, and Houston ended Toronto's franchise-record, 12-game home winning streak.

The Raptors lost at home for the first time since Jan. 3 against the Chicago Bulls.

The Rockets also snapped their eight-game losing streak north of the border, winning in Toronto for the first time since the 2006-07 season.

Corey Brewer had 23 points off the bench for the Rockets, who trailed by as many as 18 points in the second quarter. Dwight Howard added 21 points and 11 rebounds.

Luis Scola led the Raptors with 21 points, while DeMar DeRozan had 19.

Thunder 104, Bucks 96

In Milwaukee, Kevin Durant had 32 points and 12 rebounds, Russell Westbrook posted his 10th triple-double of the season and Oklahoma City built a big early lead and held off Milwaukee.

Westbrook finished with 15 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for the Thunder, who led by 21 with 6 minutes left in the third quarter before nearly getting overrun by the Bucks.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo picked up his third triple-double of the season with 26 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists.

Khris Middleton scored 18 points, including 10 straight during a 24-5 run between the third and fourth quarters that drew the Bucks within 84-82 with 11:23 left.

But the Thunder withstood the Bucks from there, holding Milwaukee without a field goal for about a 7-minute stretch of the fourth quarter.

Pistons 123, Trail Blazers 103

In Auburn Hills, Reggie Jackson scored 30 points in another big game against Portland, and Detroit beat the Trail Blazers.

Jackson scored 40 points when Detroit beat Portland on Nov. 8, including 26 in the fourth quarter. He picked up right where he left off in Sunday's rematch, scoring 11 points in the first quarter as the Pistons took a 30-16 lead.

Andre Drummond had 14 points and 18 rebounds for Detroit, and Marcus Morris added 19 points. Jackson had nine assists along with all of his scoring.

Damian Lillard led the Blazers with 26 points but shot 8 of 22 from the field.

Detroit led 58-51 at halftime, then scored the first nine points of the third quarter, taking a 16-point lead on Jackson's driving layup.

Nuggets 116, Mavericks 114, OT

In Denver, D.J. Augustin scored Denver's last eight points of overtime, including two free throws with 0.9 seconds left, and the Nuggets beat Dallas.

Augustin finished with 12 points to help the Nuggets get payback after an overtime loss in Dallas on Feb. 26.

Kenneth Faried had 25 points and a season-high 20 rebounds for the Nuggets, who rallied from four down in the last 10 seconds of regulation. Will Barton added 20 points.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 30 points and Deron Williams had 17 for the Mavericks, who have lost two straight.

The game was tied when Williams missed a layup with 16.8 seconds left in overtime. After a timeout, Augustin drove the lane and was fouled by Raymond Felton. He calmly sank both free throws, and Emmanuel Mudiay blocked Wesley Matthews' 3-pointer at the buzzer.

Suns 109, Grizzlies 100

In Memphis, Devin Booker had 27 points and nine assists, Alex Len added 19 points and 16 rebounds, and Phoenix beat Memphis.

Mirza Teletovic added 18 points for the Suns, who won their second straight. Tyson Chandler finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds as Phoenix won for only the third time in the last 18 games. Two of those wins have come against the Grizzlies.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 22 points, while Matt Barnes and JaMychal Green each had 17 points. Mario Chalmers scored 14 points and Lance Stephenson finished with 13.

The Suns connected on 52 percent of their shots, including 12 of 28 from outside the arc. Memphis, meanwhile, was limited to 40 percent and stayed close by going 10 of 22 from 3-point range.

Heat 103, Sixers 98

In Miami, Hassan Whiteside had seven blocked shots, including a pivotal one late as Miami won its fifth in a row, beating Philadelphia.

The Sixers were short-handed and endured their 12th consecutive loss, but they were a handful for the Heat. Ish Smith had 21 points and five assists to lead Philadelphia.

Goran Dragic had 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists, and Dwyane Wade also had 23 points for the Heat. Whiteside had 14 points and 13 rebounds off the bench.

The Heat missed 10 consecutive shots in the second half and went nearly 8 minutes without a basket as the 76ers took a 72-69 lead, and the margin reached 79-73 before Miami rallied.

Chase Utley's 2-game suspension dropped

NEW YORK (AP)—After all that, Chase Utley is safe.

The two-game suspension imposed on the Los Angeles Dodgers infielder after his hard takeout slide broke the leg of Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada in last year's playoffs has been dropped.

A person briefed on the decision told The Associated Press on Sunday that Major League Baseball and the players' union reached an agreement that rescinded the ban. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no announcement.

Utley played in the Dodgers' exhibition game against San Francisco, then said he would "talk tomorrow. I'll do that."

Tejada said he wasn't upset with the decision.

"No. I don't care really," he said at New York's spring training complex. "I care about me. I'm healthy here. I'm happy here. I don't care about what's going to happen there."

"That's the past. I'm all right here this year, healthy," he said,

Tejada said Utley didn't contact him after the injury, which knocked him out of the World Series.

As for the ruling, Tejada said: "I can't control that situation, so I can't do anything with that."

MLB and the union have since reworked the rule on slides to cover the sort of play that flipped Tejada and resulted in Utley's penalty in Game 2 of the NL Division Series at Dodger Stadium.

In the past, late slides such as Utley's had been a gray area - sometimes they were allowed by umpires and MLB, sometimes not. Under what some fans are calling the Chase Utley Rule, rolling blocks are now illegal.

The six-time All-Star second baseman is eligible to play when Los Angeles opens the season April 4 at San Diego.

Players' union head Tony Clark talked to Mets players Sunday morning as part of his tour of spring training camps. He said the Utley matter had been handled but offered no details.

"The issue has been resolved," Clark said in Port St. Lucie, Florida. "If he's not playing opening day then you'll have an appreciation for how it was resolved, but it has been resolved."

Under guidelines announced last month, a runner must make a "bona fide slide" - that means hitting the ground before the bag, being in position to and trying to reach the base with a hand or foot, attempting to remain on the base after the slide and sliding within reach of the base without altering his path to make contact with a fielder.

Utley was ruled safe on the play in mid-October when a replay review showed Tejada never touched second base while trying for a forceout. MLB executive Joe Torre, however, later called it an illegal slide and issued a two-game suspension.

Utley appealed, allowing him to keep playing in the postseason. The Mets went on to beat the Dodgers in the deciding Game 5.

The 37-year-old Utley was traded from Philadelphia to the Dodgers last August. He hit .202 with three home runs and nine RBIs in 34 for Los Angeles, and a combined .212 with eight homers and 39 RBIs in 107 games overall last year.

Manning to retire after 18 seasons in NFL

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—Peyton Manning surveyed the landscape of his brilliant career and called one last audible. He's retiring a champion.

A month after Denver's triumph in Super Bowl 50, Manning informed John Elway he is following his lead and riding off into that orange sunset just like the Broncos' boss did 17 years ago after winning his second Super Bowl.

Just shy of 40, Manning will forgo $19 million and a 19th season in the NFL, where he served as both a throwback and a transformer during a glittering career bookmarked by an unprecedented five MVP awards and dozens of passing records.

"Peyton was a player that guys wanted to play with," Elway said. "That made us better as a team and I'm thrilled that we were able to win a championship in his final year."

The Broncos scheduled a news conference for 11 a.m. Monday.

Manning leaves the league he helped popularize to supersize status as its all-time leading passer and winningest starting quarterback, the only one in NFL history to win Super Bowls with two franchises.

His first came in 2007 with the Indianapolis Colts, who drafted him No. 1 overall in 1998. The Colts gave up on him after a series of neck surgeries forced Manning to miss all of the 2011 season and left him without feeling in the fingertips of his right hand.

A rare superstar quarterback on the open market in 2012, Manning resettled in Denver, where, despite a right arm weakened by nerve damage, he went 50-15 with his fifth MVP award and two trips to the Super Bowl in four seasons.

So, defensive coordinators, you can breathe a little easier today: Manning will no longer be on the docket to wreck your game plans and ruin your designs on a title.

There will be no more showdowns matching skills with Tom Brady or wits with Bill Belichick—against whom he was just 6-11 but 3-2 in AFC championships.

With no more defenses to dissect, the face of the league since the turn of this century no longer has to be buried in an iPad all day, nor will he have to submerge his battered body for hours in a cold tub in a labor of love.

"I get asked a lot about my legacy," Manning said before the Super Bowl. "For me, it's being a good teammate, having the respect of my teammates, having the respect of the coaches and players. That's important to me. I am not taking this for granted. I just love football."

The 18th season for No. 18 was by far his most trying on the field. He had to adjust to new coach Gary Kubiak's run-based offense, to unrelenting health issues and to questions about his character on his way to winning his second Super Bowl.

Manning, whose dry wit and star power has made him a staple of commercials and late-night television for nearly two decades, saw his squeaky-clean image take a beating as the final pages were flipped on his storied career.

The NFL is investigating allegations that human growth hormone was shipped to his home in his wife's name following an Al Jazeera report that Manning dismissed as "garbage." And in a new lawsuit filed last month. Manning was cited as an example of a hostile environment for women at the University of Tennessee for his alleged harassment of a female trainer in 1996.

A torn ligament in his left foot hampered Manning all the way back to August. It led to his worst statistical season and sidelined him for six weeks before that fairy tale finish in Santa Clara, California, when his defense carried him across the finish line.

Constantly harassed, never quite comfortable—sort of the way the whole season played out - Manning walked away with his second NFL title after Denver's defense, with seven sacks and four takeaways, all but handed him the Lombardi Trophy in a 24-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers.

"He had to do several things different this year," said his dad, Archie, a former star quarterback himself. "Had to take off during the season, which he'd never done before. He ran the scout team, which I don't think he'd ever done, and he dressed out as a backup, which he'd never done."

Manning also had to play the role of game manager for the first time during Denver's defense-fueled run to the title. "I'm just glad I was on the same team as our defense," he said.

Although his teammates said his speech on the eve of the game felt very much like a goodbye, Manning didn't call it his "last rodeo" right away, saying he needed time to reflect.

Denver gained only 194 yards against the Panthers, the fewest for a victorious team in a Super Bowl, and Manning had but 13 completions for 141 yards. Thanks to a defense led by game MVP Von Miller, however, Manning became the oldest quarterback to win a championship, a year older than Elway was when he won his second Super Bowl in 1999 before walking away.

AP

In this Jan. 24, 2016, file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning waves to spectators following the AFC Championship game between the Denver Broncos and the New England Patriots, in Denver. A person with knowledge of the decision tells The Associated Press on Sunday, March 6, that Manning has informed the Denver Broncos he's going to retire.

Manning, who revealed at the Super Bowl that he faces a hip replacement in retirement, finished in a tie with Brett Favre for most regular-season wins with 186. His victory in Super Bowl 50 was his 14th in the postseason, one more than Favre, making him the NFL's only 200-win quarterback.

"There's no question that his work ethic is what made him into one of the great quarterbacks of all time," Elway said. "All the film study Peyton did and the process that he went through with game planning and understanding what the other teams did was second to none."

Almost from his pro debut in 1998, Manning was a pioneer in the way he deciphered defenses and directed play at the line of scrimmage. Envision him pacing from tackle to tackle, pointing and hollering, as he became a model for every quarterback who's come along since. Manning not only was at the vanguard of the aerial fireworks shows that light up today's scoreboards and big-screen TVs, he was the mastermind of it.

"I think from the sense of quarterbacks, he's been fast-paced, no-huddle, dynamic offense, score a lot of points, and score quickly," said his brother, Eli Manning, a two-time Super Bowl winner himself, for the Giants. "Now you see that more. More teams are doing it. The Colts kind of started that trend and did it well for a long time."

So did the Broncos, for whom Manning threw 140 of his NFL-high 539 TD passes, including a record 55 in 2013.

Manning was never the best athlete, but his off-the-charts preparation and other-worldly memory recall made him rise above the rest, suggested teammate DeMarcus Ware.

"He beat you mentally," said Ware, who came to Denver two years ago for the chance to play with Manning. "That was his guide: Physically you might be faster than me, you might be more athletic than me, but I'm going to outsmart you every time."

Manning's retirement allows the Broncos to focus on re-signing his longtime backup, Brock Osweiler, who went 5-2 in his place.

Scott captures Cadillac Championship

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Adam Scott faced a daunting challenge, a six-shot deficit with 13 holes remaining on a course that was playing tougher than it had at any point this week.

And after overcoming that, he needed to survive two brushes with big trouble on the final hole to finish the job.

Scott won for the second straight week, shooting a final-round 69 to win the Cadillac Championship by one shot over Bubba Watson. It's the second win for Scott in a World Golf Championships event, his 13th career win on the PGA Tour and he now hasn't finished lower than second in any of his last three starts.

"Everything fell the right way for me today," Scott said.

Scott finished the week at 12-under 276. Watson (68) was alone in second, and Danny Willett (69) and Rory McIlroy (74) were tied for third, two shots back. Phil Mickelson (70) was alone in fifth at 9 under and Jimmy Walker shot the round of the day, a 6-under 66 to finish alone in sixth at 8 under.

With course owner Donald Trump popping in on Sunday, arriving by helicopter and greeting fans as he drove around in a cart, there was plenty of drama away from the fairways and greens.

Scott ensured there was a ton on the grass as well, after two double-bogeys in a three-hole span on the front side seemed to send his round into a tailspin. That is, until he got hot at just the right time with birdies on six of his next nine holes after the second double.

"It was such a challenge out there today," Scott said. "I knew if I could just get a couple before the turn, maybe I'll have a chance."

It's anyone's guess if Scott will get a chance to defend the title at Doral in 2017. General Motors' sponsorship agreement with the event ends this week and with no sponsor, there's no tournament.

"Our hope is that the future could allow us to stay here and continue to build the tournament," PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem said Sunday afternoon, meeting with reporters before sitting down privately with Trump to talk about the tournament's future. "But we'll have more to say about that after we do a full evaluation of our performance this year."

Count Watson, who has been second or third at Doral four times in the last five years, among those who want Doral to stay on the schedule, as it has been since 1962.

"If they move it I'll be sad," Watson said, "because I'm pretty good around this place."

That he is, but Scott—despite walking a tightrope the last three holes—was a bit better.

He saved par on the par-4 16th, after his drive went over the green and nestled in a bunker. His second shot was dreadful, finding a patch of greenside rough. From there he popped a chip 8 feet past the hole, then made the putt for par.

The trouble only got worse from there.

With 10 men, United loses, Liverpool wins

LONDON (AP)—Playing with 10 men proved to be no problem for Liverpool in the English Premier League on Sunday.

The same cannot be said of Manchester United.

Liverpool responded to James Milner's sending-off in the 62nd minute against Crystal Palace by coming from 1-0 down to win 2-1 as Christian Benteke's penalty clinched victory in the sixth minute of injury time.

However, United was made to pay for a 26th-minute red card to Juan Mata—also for two bookings—at West Bromwich Albion, which won 1-0 thanks to Salomon Rondon's goal at The Hawthorns.

United dropped three points behind fourth-place Manchester City in the race for Champions League qualification and is now only three ahead of Liverpool, which has won three straight league games for the first time in a year. City has a game in hand over United too.

"It's a big blow," United manager Louis van Gaal said. "This kind of match you need to win."

Van Gaal said Mata's sending-off for two yellow cards in three minutes was to blame for United's first-ever Premier League loss at West Brom.

AP

West Brom's Solomon Rondon, right, beats Manchester United's David De Gea, center, to score against Manchester United during the English Premier League soccer match between West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United, at the Hawthorns in West Bromwich, England, Sunday, March 6, 2016.

"We have played 60 minutes with 10 versus 11, and this is the fifth match in 14 days," the Dutchman said. "It's very difficult to play against 11 players (in this situation). I think it's the reason why we lost."

Mata collected his first booking for blocking a quickly taken free kick, a decision Van Gaal described as "stupid."

Initially, United coped well with going a man down but barely threatened West Brom's goal, and Rondon won a tight game by controlling a left-wing cross and shooting home on the turn in the 66th.

West Brom moved to 39 points, which should secure its Premier League status for another season.

"Can we reach that magic 50 points that West Brom have never had before?" West Brom midfielder Darren Fletcher said.

Liverpool played its best football down to 10 men at Selhurst Park, where the team hadn't won since 1997, although it needed two errors by Palace players to bring about the comeback.

Roberto Firmino pounced on a mis-hit clearance from Palace goalkeeper Alex McCarthy, drove forward and slotted a finish past McCarthy in the 72nd to make it 1-1.

Then Benteke, on as a late substitute, fell to the ground under the slightest of touches from Palace defender Damien Delaney, who pulled out of an attempted tackle in the fourth minute of stoppage time but still connected with Benteke's left ankle.

The Belgium striker coolly converted the spot-kick, halting midway through his run-up before slotting it home into the corner.

"I feel like we've been robbed a little bit," said Palace manager Alan Pardew, whose side hasn't won since Dec. 19, "but maybe we shot ourselves in the foot."

Palace led through Joe Ledley in the 48th minute.

Liverpool is six points off the Champions League qualification positions and has 10 games remaining, one more than many of its rivals for the top four.

"I can't believe how it feels, really good," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said. "A big moment for us."

LITTLE

From Page 28

contention when Christopher Gonzales advanced to first off the Little Legals' error at third base. But, Gonzales was left stranded at third as the next Falcons batter went down on a 1-3 putout play.

The win was the Little Legals' first, as their earlier debut (against McDonald's) during the league's opening day was rained-out.

Versus the Falcons, who absorbed their second loss after bowing to the IT&E Regulations last Feb. 29, 1-10, the Little Legals grabbed the lead from the former after a three-run top of the second inning, 3-2. Justin Agulto, Courtney Lizama, and Alvin Hocog scored the three unearned runs for the Robert Torres-backed Little Legals in the second inning, while the two other runs came from Miku Torres' RBI single and Lizama's sacrifice fly.

The Falcons, on the other hand, recorded their two runs at the bottom of the first inning. Keoni Serrano reached off the Little Legals errors at home plate, while Jonathan Riungel made it home off a sacrifice out from Kapileo. The Falcons went cold in the next four innings and had to play catch up in the last and fell short.

McDonald's 15, Twins 4

In the first game last Saturday, McDonald's eased past Twins.

McDonald's recovered from a lethargic start as it scored in the last four innings after being silent in the first two. It tacked on five runs at the top of the third to take the lead, 5-1, and added three each in the fourth and fifth before closing out with four runs in the sixth to cruise to its first win of the season.

L.J. Reyes hit 3-for-5 for McDonalds and tallied two runs and two RBIs. Lance Acosta also had two RBIs off a 2-for-4 performance at the plate. Lily Podziewski was only 1-for-5, but recorded four runs.

Ol'Aces 8, Twins 4

In other results, the Ol'Aces also defeated the Twins during the opening week of the Best Sunshine International-sponsored SLLB.

The Ol'Aces collected four runs at the top of the fifth inning to break the 2-2 deadlock and hung tough to keep the lead and the win. Kenneth Kaipat and Andre Macaranas each knocked an RBI single, while the Ol'Aces got the other runs off the Twins' miscues. Kaipat added one more RBI single in the sixth, while Lufo Babauta had the same to give the Ol'Aces enough cushion. The Ol'Aces' first two runs were registered in the fourth inning off Nathan Aizon's RBI single and the Twins' errors.

The Twins, who posted two early goals at the bottom of the first, dropped their opener after failing to score a single run in the next three innings and getting only one run each in the fifth and sixth.

FLORES

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Hall of Famers as their contribution to CNMI sports were recognized in front of their former teammates, coaches, officials, and the island's young athletes.

Flores called the shots for the CNMI's various local and national basketball teams for nearly three decades and he also played for Mt. Carmel School. His first coaching job was at the Marianas High School in 1983, while he started holding the same post for the CNMI Men's National Team in 1986 with his stint with the squad lasting for 14 years. He is best remembered for helping the CNMI win its only medal (silver) in the men's basketball during the 1994 Micronesian Games in Guam.

Flores received his Hall of Fame trophy from fellow Hall of Famer Jeff Race during the awards presentation and was joined by his wife Annie in the ceremony.

"I owe half of this award to my wife, who was very understanding and supportive while I was busy coaching. I spent a lot of time away from home coaching teams and she did not complain," he said.

"For coaches, try to teach and strengthen your players' basic fundamentals. Don't be fancy or help them make those NBA-like moves. If you help your players master the basics, you are doing the right thing," the veteran coach added when asked for advice to upcoming coaches.

As for Camacho, who flew in from Oregon, to personally receive his award, following your coaches' instruction and dedication to practice are needed to become a good baseball player.

Camacho played in Saipan Baseball League (formerly Saipan Major League) for 18 years and collected numerous individual awards, including Rookie of the Year, MVP, Coach of the Year, and Golden Glove. He also owned career records in hits, RBIs, and home runs.

"It's an honor to stand in front of my mentors in baseball and join them in the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame," Camacho said.

Meanwhile, Northern Marianas Athletics' Elias Rangamar received Quitigua's award, as the latter was off-island, while Millerie Pangelinan got the trophy for her deceased husband.

"We are very thankful for this great honor. My family is very happy because even though my husband is dead, the CNMI sports community still recognized his contribution to softball," Millerie said.

YOUTH

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Jinnosuke Suzuki, Taiyo Akimaru, and Rintaro Miyawaki of Saipan Swim Club was the third all-U18 athletes who completed the Olympic course in Tagaman. They totaled 3:10:11 to place at No. 8. Two more SSC bets and siblings Leo and Rinto Takahashi were on the list of youth participants in the relay, as they joined forces with their father Masanori and finished the event in 3:27:22.

Multi-sports youth athletes and friends Steven Goodwin, Cole Chambers, and Logan Mister were entered in the men's field, too, and finished ahead of the Takahashis after registering 3:02:30, while Saipan Community Schoo students R.J. Pierce, Jeffrey Seo, and Ken Song broke the three-hour barrier after submitting 2:45:33.

In other men's division results, 11-year-old Akira Kadokura worked with vetarans Tony Stearns and Steve Pixley and they were ranked fifth overall after timing in at 2:41:10. Vener Urena, Jorse Bartolata, and Daniel Marzan rounded out the Olympic distance relay finishers after logging 3:13:18.

In the Half Ironman course, 10-year-old Jinie Thompson braved the two-lap 1.9-kilometer swim leg and timed in at 38:29, finishing ahead of four others. She teamed up with biker Raymund Tolentino (3:24:54/90K) and runner Ronald VIllafria (1:51:00/21.1K) and they completed the Half Ironman course in 5:54:23.

Swim Leg of 2016 Tagaman Triathlon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's R.J. Pierce runs out of the water during the swim leg of the 2016 Tagaman Triathlon held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Saipan Swim Club's Taiga Sato removes his cap as he heads to the swim-bike transition area.

Saipan Swim Club's David Boyer, left, runs to the shore, while Jinnosuke Suzuki catches up.

Mamiko Berger smiles as she goes to the swim-bike transition area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Siblings Jinie, front, and Jin Ju Thompson pose for a photo before the start of the swim leg.

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel heads to the swim-bike transition area after completing the 1.5-kilometer swim leg.

JTL Timing's Jim Lovell watches Saipan's Tyce Mister, second right, and Tammy Winkfield, run toward the swim-bike transition area.

Will Schroeder is ahead of three other swimmers.

Brad Ruszala, left, and Russ Quinn run together, while Kaoru Takahashi, center, gets out of the water.

Lakers stun Warriors for Golden State's 6th loss

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Sports

Manning to retire after 18 seasons in NFL

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Youth athletes stand out in relay

THOMPSON

CASTRO

CHURCH

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's youth athletes showcased their promising skills as they held their ground against the seasoned veterans in last Saturday's relay races in the 2016 Tagaman Triathlon.

Nearly half of the 45 athletes who joined the Olympic distance course of Tagaman relay are in the U18 age group and Jinju Thompson, Erico Castro, and Kaden Church of Team Heartthrob were among them, ruling the mixed relay event after posting 2:35:08.

Thompson started Heartthrob's bid in the division, timing in at 24:05 in the 1.5-kilometer swim leg held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club. Her time was ranked at No. 18 out of the 72 swimmers. Then in the 40K bike leg, Castro submitted 1:22:46 to land in the No. 25 spot in the rankings, while Church's 51:06 put him at No. 15.

Heartthrob placed ahead of Nick Brennfleck, Margaret Rose, and Lorie Hutchison, who tallied 2:44:59, and the team of youth swimmer Sophia Gauran, Ric Antonio, and Fred Remillosa, who registered 2:55:09.

The winning mixed relay squad finished third overall behind men's division's Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, Nick Villalon and Keith Longuski, and the trio of Lennosuke Suzuki, Salofi Welch, and Haruya Eda.

Kabiriel (24:32), Villalon (1:18:29), and Longuski (38:46) combined for 2:22:46 to prevail in the eight-team field, while Lennosuke and company, which were another U18 team, timed in at 2:33:24 to settle for runner-up honors in the men's division. Ernie Moises, Bob Ferrer, and Gary Bandoja, who combined for 2:37:35 rounded out the Top 3.

In the women's division, youth swimmer Ayaka Sato teamed up with Lorie Boyer and Akiko Miller to record the field's fastest time at 2:52:20. They won over Tammy Winkfield and Rachel Epperson (2:58:05) and the trio of Maria Ornes, Tina Goodwin, and Angie Mister, who clocked in at 3:17:08.

Meanwhile, the team of

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Flores, 3 others enshrined to CNMI Sports Hall of Fame

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The elite CNMI Sports Hall of Fame family welcome four new members during the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet held last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Respected basketball coach Frank "Sonny" Flores, baseball's Tony C. Camacho, fast-pitch softball's Max Pangelinan, and athletics' Emy Quitugua made up the class of 2015

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Frank "Sonny Flores, left, and Tony C. Camacho chat after they were inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the 2015 NMSA Annual Sports Banquet last Saturday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Little Legals third baseman gets ready, while a Falcons runner checks on the action at home plate during the bottom of the fifth inning of their Majors division game in the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Little Legals bring down Falcons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Little Legals made the necessary defensive stops to nip the Falcons, 5-4, in their Major division game in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Pitcher Delbert Sablan picked up a grounder from the Falcons' sixth batter and threw to first base for the third and last out at the bottom of the sixth inning. Before the final out, the Falcons threatened the Little Legals, as Kyke Kapileo hit a two-run homer that brought the Little Legals' lead to one with only one out.

The Little Legals then got the second out after some clarifications, as Santiago Kani was beaten to first. The umpire near first base earlier decided the runner was safe due to running path violation by the Little Legals' Alexina Tyquenco. However, head umpire Manny Tenorio reversed the call and charged the Falcons with the second out.

Despite the tough break, the Falcons remained in

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